

I Love My Religion "Islam" ۱

(According to Hanafi School of Law)





I Love My Religion "Islam" 1

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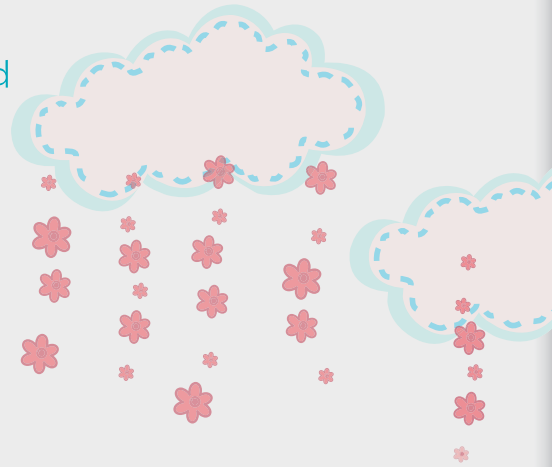
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

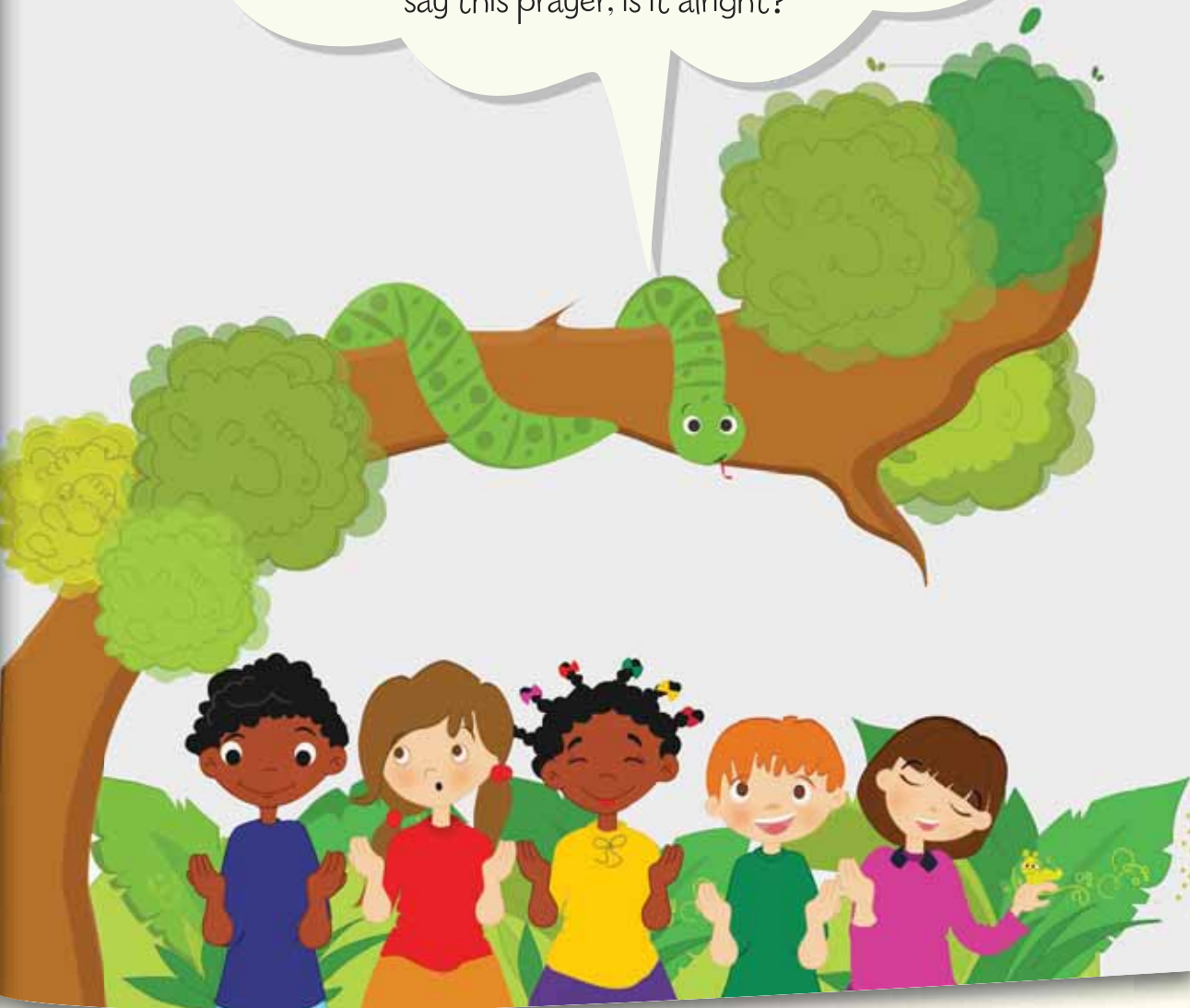
“Rabbi yassir wa la tu’assir Rabbi tammim bil khair”

O Allah, we pray to have a very nice class today.

May we have fun and learn as well.

Amin

Our Prophet teaches us the Prayer of Asking Help.
Whoever says this prayer easily overcomes all hardships. How beautiful!
Come on then, in order to have successful day and
complete our jobs easily
Let’s say this prayer together.
Whenever we start our lessons, let’s do not forget to
recite Basmala and then
say this prayer, is it alright?





We are learning
our religion.
Yippee!

“BASMALA” THE BEGINNING OF EVERY GOOD DEED

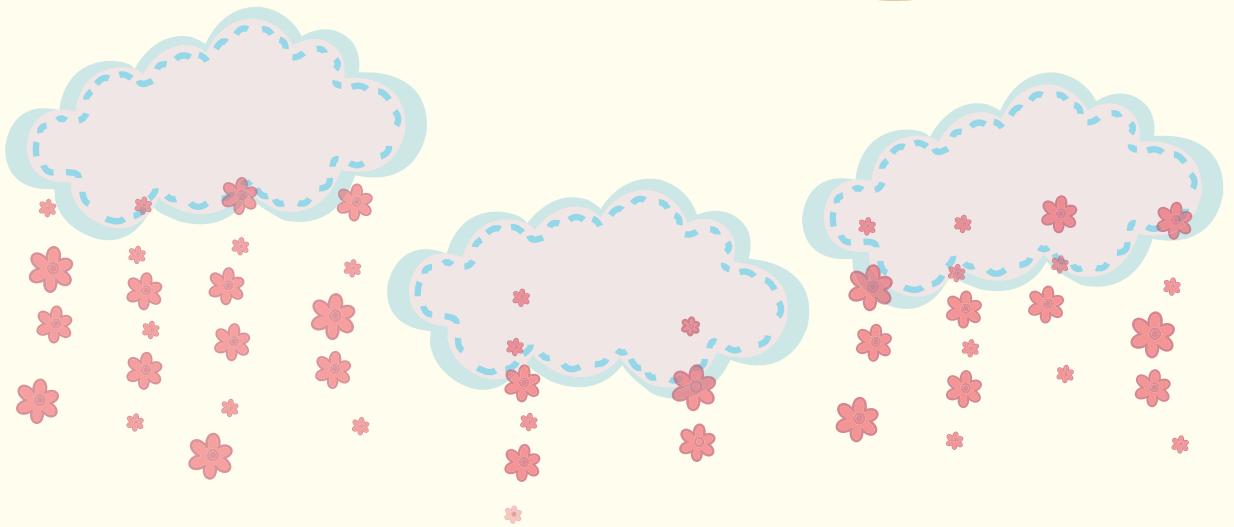
Whenever I open my book,
Whenever I start to study,
Whenever I intend to do something
I recite Basmala,
And always keep on saying;

“BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM!”

Basmala means to say “Bismillahirrahmanirrahim”. It means “in the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate”... We, as Muslims, always say “Bismillahirrahmanirrahim” at the beginning of all of our good deeds. When we get out of bed, when we wash our hands, when we eat and drink, when we start studying... If we say this nice expression, we can complete all of our tasks precisely and in the best way. That is why we say basmala at the beginning of all of our tasks. When we say basmala, we in fact say, “O Allah, You are the most Merciful and Compassionate! I hold on to You, and never leave You. Please, do not leave me. Help me to fulfill all of my affairs in the best way.”



Did you know?



Our Beloved Prophet said, “When a teacher says to a little kid “recite basmala”, it is recorded for that teacher, for that kid, and for the parents of that kid to be saved from Hell.” (Suyuti, D. Mansur: 1/26) Then, let’s recite basmala at the beginning of all of our affairs and let’s deliver this good news to everybody we know. In this way, let’s forever live together with our loved ones in Paradise which is full of gifts.



Which is the correct one?

Hey friends! Let's analyze together the pictures given below side by side. Which children, do you think, has recited basmala and fulfilled their affairs in the best way? Let's pick the correct picture and paint the box next to that picture.

Alhamdulillah.
I feel very strong.


☐

I am eating, but I do not
feel myself full,
I feel myself weak.


☐

I think I forgot
something...


☐

I am happily
jumping.


☐

I have
found it!


☐

Who has prepared
these problems?
They are so com-
plicated. I cannot
solve them!


☐

Abdullah learns Basmala

That day was very important for Abdullah.

He got up early in the morning because on that day he was beginning to go to the school where he was going to learn how to read and write. His tiny heart was enthusiastically beating. He was also a little bit scared because he was going to go to a large class full of new friends. His mother said “Bismillah” while she was preparing Abdullah for the school. Abdullah used to hear that expression from his mother. When his mother recited the same expression again when opening the door to go out, he could not help himself but asked her,

- Mommy, you always recite the same expression when you are going to do something. What exactly do you mean by these words?

His mother responded,

- I think you are asking about Basmala!

Abdullah:

- Yes mommy. You said “Bismillahirrahmanirrahim”.

His mother replied,

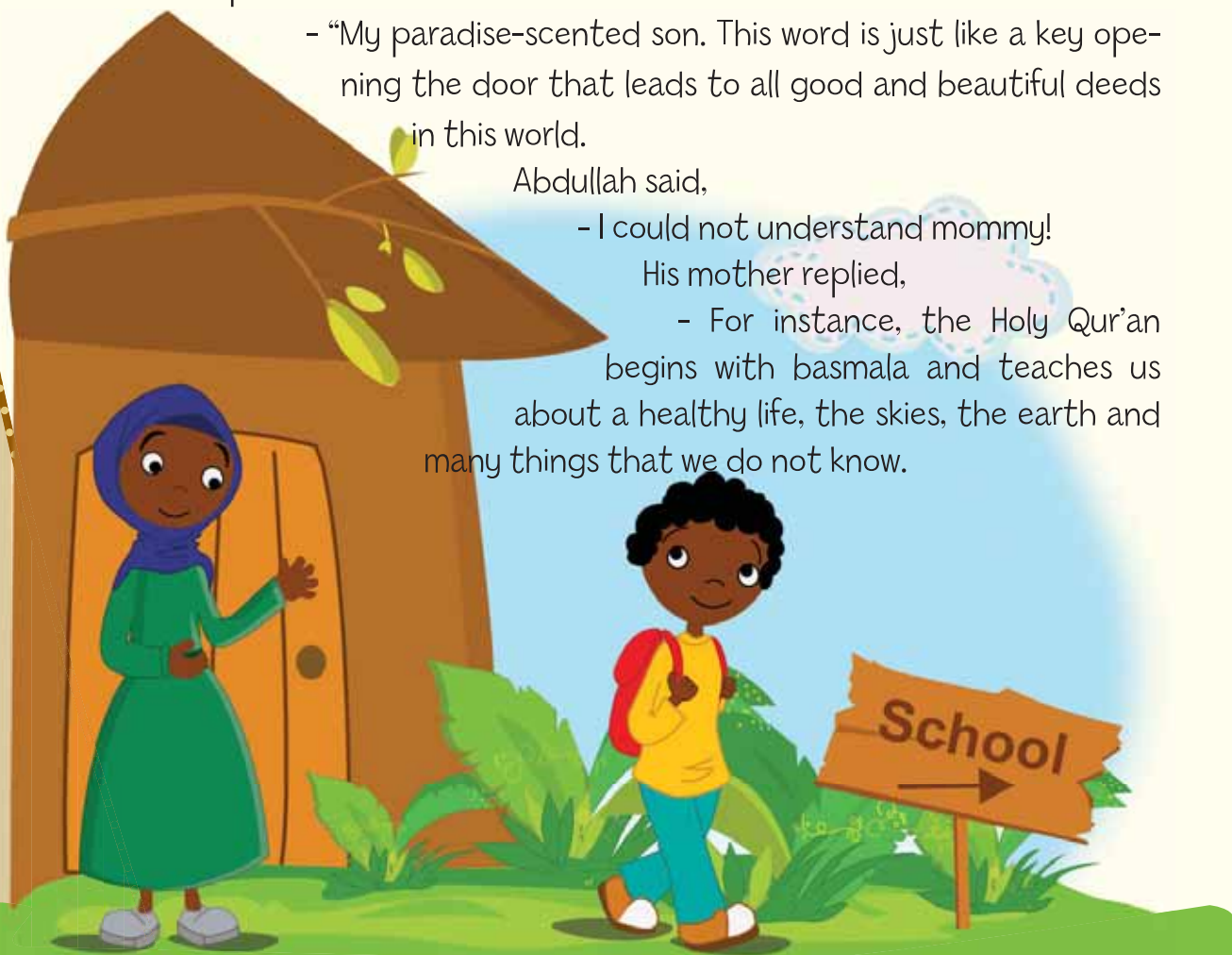
- “My paradise-scented son. This word is just like a key opening the door that leads to all good and beautiful deeds in this world.

Abdullah said,

- I could not understand mommy!

His mother replied,

- For instance, the Holy Qur’an begins with basmala and teaches us about a healthy life, the skies, the earth and many things that we do not know.



The Qur'an provides easiness in our affairs. Besides, it is a miraculous book that will be protected by Allah until the end of the days. If we begin all of our affairs with basmala just like it is done in the Qur'an, we will become a scholar who knows all kinds of useful information. We can not only be beneficial to people, but at the same time, will be protected by Allah.

Imagine my son. Could not Allah, Who created the gigantic Sun out of nothing and Who circulates all planets and stars without crashing to the world, help us in our jobs? If He helps us, we can easily be successful.

Abdullah became very excited from what he had just heard. He had learned that if he recites basmala, he will be protected when he goes to the school and will easily be able to learn everything; Allah will help him in all of his affairs. He recited basmala and shouted out:

- Yippee! I have recited basmala, and gotten rid of all my fears.

His mother said:

- Good for you, my smart son.

And they started to walk together toward the school. When Abdullah saw his friends at the school, he quietly recited basmala by himself and left his mother. And then he joined his friends.

After returning from his school, Abdullah ran and hugged his mother and said:

- Mommy! I am so happy that you have taught me the recitation of basmala. I have learned everything taught in the class today, and I also got a "well done" from my teacher. I felt myself very happy. I do not start anything without basmala anymore. From now on, everything I do will be very easy for me to overcome, so that I will always be happy because of that.



There is a Creator

Do you believe me if I tell you that while I was coming here, a tree standing in front of me fell down, was broken into pieces, turned into timber, and then the pieces of timber came together and turned into a boat, then I got on that boat to come here?

Can any tree turn into a boat by itself?

How can this huge universe come into existence by itself while a pen, a piece of paper or a tree cannot come into existence by themselves?

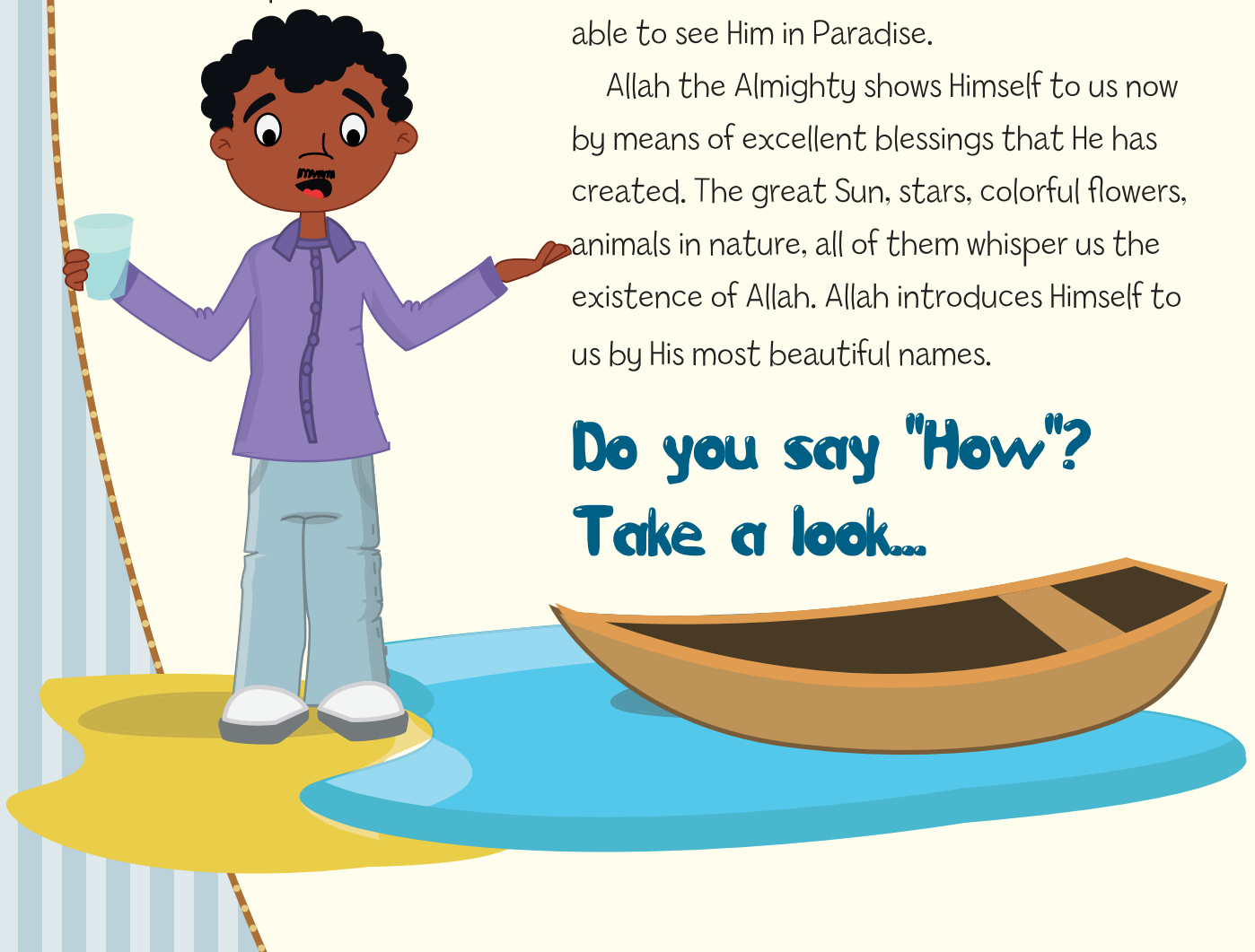
Therefore, there is certainly a Creator of this universe and of us.

Yes, o children, there is a God who created all of us.

We cannot see our Creator now, just like we cannot see the fat particles in milk. If we become a kind-hearted and trustworthy person who submits himself/herself to the commands of Allah, He will show Himself to us in Heaven together with the surprises that will never come to an end and never get old. We will be able to see Him in Paradise.

Allah the Almighty shows Himself to us now by means of excellent blessings that He has created. The great Sun, stars, colorful flowers, animals in nature, all of them whisper us the existence of Allah. Allah introduces Himself to us by His most beautiful names.

**Do you say "How"?
Take a look...**



The most beautiful names of Allah



اللَّهُ

When we mention His name **Allah**, He comes our help with all of His names. He banishes all evils, He encircles us with love. Just like the rainbow colorfully encircles the sky!

The clouds which weigh tons pour out their water on us drop by drop. They never hurt us. They demonstrate us God is **Al-Rahman**, the Most Compassionate.

الرَّحْمَنُ



الرَّحِيمُ

God, who is **Al-Rahim**, the Most Merciful recompenses the efforts of those who struggle. He surrounds them with mercy and love. And He punishes those who insist on committing mistakes. Just like our mothers who loves us very much do.

The real sovereign and the owner of everything is our Lord, who is **Al-Malik**. People who know this truth never fight for the property or land. On the contrary, they live peacefully together sharing everything.

الْمَلِكُ



الْقُدُّوسُ

Allah is **Al-Quddus**. He keeps us and our environment clean from dirt and stains. When flowers wither up, they never pile up and turn into a garbage heap. We see that the nature is always clean. In this way, Allah who is Pure and Great greets us with His name, **Al-Quddus**.

With His name **Al-Salam**, Allah makes the gigantic sun rise over us every day and makes it set. We are not worried about if the morning will come, because we know that Allah completes everything in the best way. The sun greets us everyday, and reminds us His name, **Al-Salam**.

السَّلَامُ



My Religion Islam

When Abdullah recognized that what he just learned in the class made his life easier, he started to say:

- My religion is very beautiful... My religion is very beautiful ... My religion is very beautiful ...

In the meantime, his friend Aisha who was passing through the street said:

- O Abdullah, can you please tell me how it is beautiful? And Abdullah said:

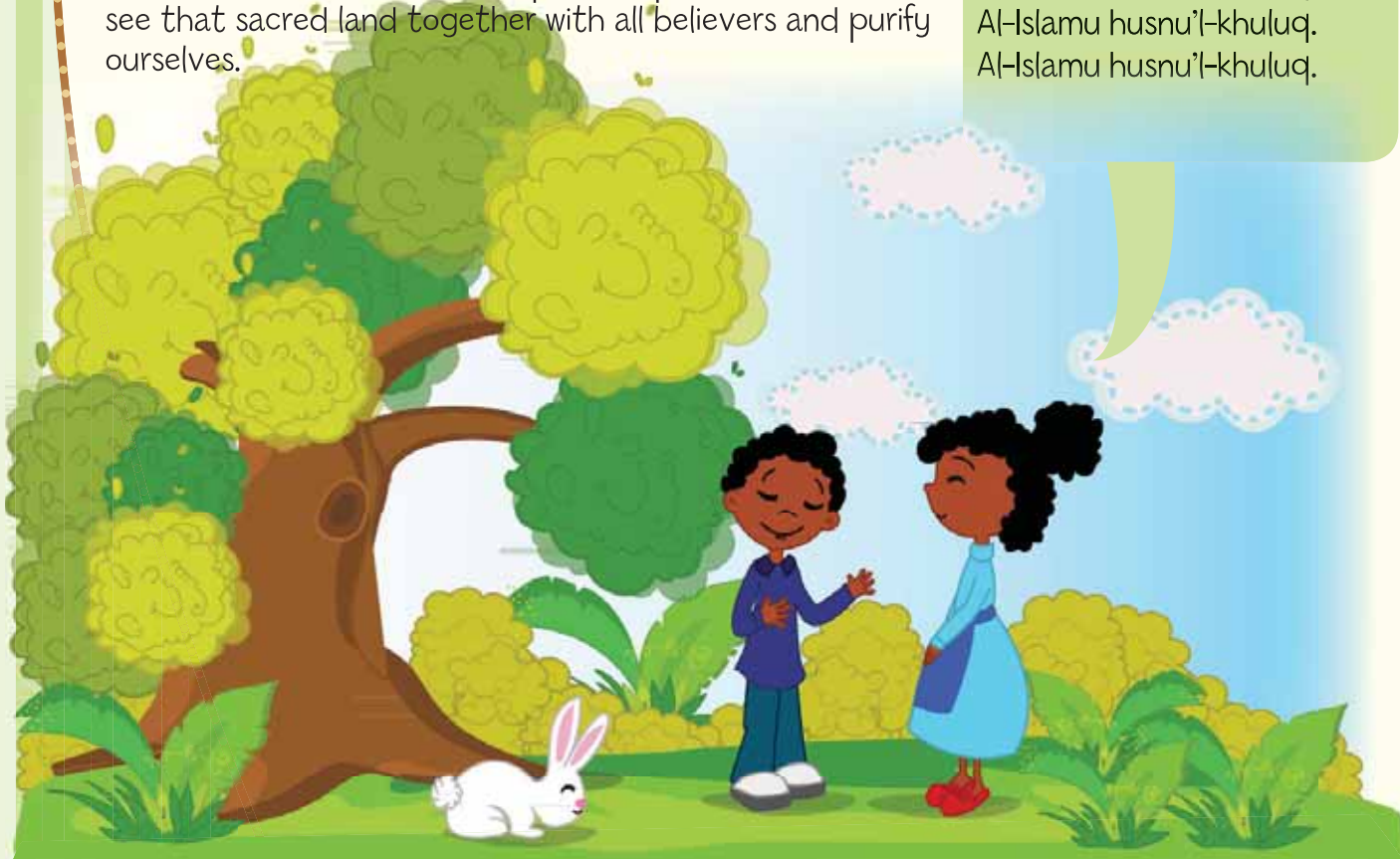
- Don't you know? Our religion, Islam, means peace, guidance to the right and good.

Whoever comprehends Islam and obeys its rules always becomes happy O Aisha. Let's say together to be happy:

Allah has chosen Islam for us as the best form of life. He sent many prophets and taught us our religion. He has also explained this in the Qur'an in chapter Al-Maida (5), "...This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favor unto you, and have chosen Islam for you as religion..." Therefore, if we follow the rules of our religion Islam, we will be healthy, successful and happy individuals.

Let's perform our prayers, let's get closer to Allah, let's open our hands and speak with Him by means of praying. Let's perform our fasting, let's show our patience and power. Let's pay alms-giving and let's provide what our brothers and sisters need. Let's show everyone that our religion is the religion of solidarity. Let's perform pilgrimage and let's see that sacred land together with all believers and purify ourselves.

My religion is so beautiful ...
It commands us to be always upright.
It likes cleanliness very much
It prevents all evils.
It shows mercy to everybody.
It treats everybody with love and respect.
Our Prophet said that:
Islam is good morality.
(Kanz Al-Ummal, hadith number: 5225)
Al-Islamu husnu'l-khuluq.
Al-Islamu husnu'l-khuluq.
Al-Islamu husnu'l-khuluq.



The Game of Basic Principles of Islam



The number of the basic principles of Islam is five, five!

(Raise your hands and show your five fingers.)

Confession of faith,

(Take your one hand to your mouth and make a speech sign.)

Performing ritual prayers,

(Raise your hands as if you recite takbir, and tie them on your belly.)

Fasting

(Close your mouth with your hand, then take it back.),

Giving alms,

(Extend your hand forward while your palm is open.)

Going to Pilgrimage.

(Pretend you are walking)

Alhamdulillah I am a Muslim

I am a Muslim, yes, I am a Muslim,

(Walk proudly.)

Alhamdulillah, I am a Muslim,

(Put your hands on your heart and lean forward.)

My religion is Islam,

(Raise your forefinger upward.)

My book is the Qur'an,

(Unite your hands in a book form.)

Ka'bah is the direction of my prayer,

(Wave your hands forward as if you show a direction.)

And Ka'bah is in Mecca,

(Indicate by your forefinger.)

Five times in a day,

(Point five by your hand.)

I go to Ka'bah.

(Pretend as if you are running.)

People who believe in the religion of Islam are called as Muslims. Many people with different colors and languages live all over the world. Those who believe in the religion of Islam and apply it in their lives are all Muslim brothers and sisters.

Our Lord, Allah says in the Qur'an, "The believers are but brothers..." (Chapter Al-Hujurat (49) verse 10) Our Prophet also said, "A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor." (Bukhari, Mazalim, 3; Muslim, Birr 58) How nice to be brothers and sisters! There are many Muslims all around the world. If we collaborate with each other, nobody can harm us, and we can be the strongest nation.

How beautiful to be a Muslim!

Come on then, let's say all together.



The Key to Paradise

Our Beloved Prophet said, “Kalima al-Tawhid (the Islamic confession faith) is the key to Heaven.” (Suyuti, Al-Jami’ Al-Saghir, 8191)

We can repeat Kalima al-Tawhid from inside while we are playing, walking, running, taking a rest or waiting for something. The more we recite it, the more we come close to attain the key to Paradise. Now, let’s say Kalima al-Tawhid while jumping up and down! Let’s try to catch the key to Heaven. And we should never forget to say its meaning when we feel tired and stop.



Kalima al-Tawhid :

La ilaha illallah Muhammadun rasulullah

La ilaha illallah Muhammadun rasulullah

La ilaha illallah Muhammadun rasulullah



Its Meaning :

There is no god except Allah; Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.



Abdullah and Aisha Compete

Abdullah and Aisha began to compete with each other in order to gain the key to Paradise.

Aisha:

- O Abdullah, I will win the competition. I recited Kalima al-Tawhid 2000 times in total. Have you recited it only 500 times so far?

Abdullah:

How do you know this, maybe I have recited Kalima al-Tawhid much more? I have already recited it 500 times in the morning.

Aisha:

Yes, This is why I am saying that I won the game because you have not recited Kalima al-Tawhid since this morning.

Abdullah:

I am sorry Aisha but I think I have already defeated you in reciting Kalima al-Tawhid, because so far since the morning, I have recited Tawhid 2300 times in total.

Aisha:

But how can this be possible? I have always kept an eye on you, and your lips were not moving at all...

Abdullah:

Oh Aisha, don't you know that all the letters in Kalima al-Tawhid can be recited from memory while keeping the mouth shut, even without moving the tongue?



I Believe and I'm Getting Better

Faith means believing in Allah and trusting in Him. People who have faith put their trust in Allah. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says about those who believe in Him: "Those who have believed and done righteous deeds - a good state is theirs and a good return."
(Chapter al-Ra'd (13), verse 26)

How is the person who believes in Allah and does righteous deeds?



He/she is always good-humored and well-intentioned.



He/she esteems everybody and greets them.



He/she helps elderly and sick people.



He/she never wastes his/her time; learns and teaches whatever is right.



He/she respects his/her elders and loves the younger ones.



Nobody can see a harm from his/her hand and tongue; he/she always does useful things.

In this way, he/she is considered successful and become so happy both in this world and the hereafter. How beautiful! Whoever believes in Allah always succeeds!

The Invocation That Teaches Us The Principles of Faith

We learn the principles of faith by means of "the prayer of Amantu".

The Invocation of Amantu

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَبِالْقَدَرِ
خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ حَقٌّ
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Amantu billahi

(I have believed in Allah)

Wa malaikatihi

(And His angels)

Wa kutubihi

(And His books)

Wa rusulihi

(And His messengers)

Wa'l yawmi'l akhiri

(And the Last Day)

Wa bi'l qadari khayrihi wa sharrihi mina'llahi taala

(And in the destiny, that everything is good and bad comes from Allah)

Wa'l ba'thu ba'da'l mawti haqqun

(And that resurrection after death is true and right.)

Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluh.

(I bear witness that there is no god but Allah the Almighty. And I bear witness that Muhammad (pbuh) is His servant and messenger.)

The Nursery Rhyme that Abdullah Learned

Abdullah has started to pray every night before lying on his bed.

- O Allah, I have faithfully believed in Your existence.

I pray to You by using Your beautiful names; You are Rahman, Rahim, Malik, Quddus, and Salam as well.

Show me, my family and all Muslims the truth. Let our hearts be filled with Your love.

Abdullah fell asleep purring the nursery rhyme of Principles of Faith.

The number of the pillars of faith is six, six!
(Point out the number six by your fingers.)

It means believing

(Clap your hands three times.)

In the existence and unity of Allah

(Raise your forefinger up)

In His angels

(Move your fingers in the air)

In His books

(Put your hands side by side in the form of book.)

In His messengers

(Keep your head upright as if holding a scepter.)

In the Day of Judgment

(Wave your hand as if you point forward.)

In divine decree

(Raise your both arms up)

In that good and bad comes from Allah

(Make your arms in the shape of a circle and lower them down.)

Did You Know This?

The person who says Kalima al-Shahada becomes a believer and converts to Islam. In other words, he/she becomes a Muslim. Let's recite Kalima al-Shahada all together:

"Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluh."

The meaning of Kalima al-Shahada:

I certainly know, as if I have seen and heard, that Allah is One; and I certainly know, as if I have seen and heard, that Muhammad (pbuh) is His servant and Messenger.



Allah Who has Created Everything

A little boy looked around, this giant world, mountains, and trees... He thought "How beautiful and huge they are!" Then he looked at himself, his hands, his fingers, and his body... He can run by using his feet; he can see by his eyes and hear by his ears. How could all these happen? Thoughts were flying around in his mind. Surely, someone must have perfectly created all these favors. They cannot come into existence by themselves! Someone must have created them, but who could that be?

He saw stars in the sky while he was contemplating. He thought "how high they are! These stars must be what goes through and lightens the darkness. Yes, our creator must be like them... Just then, the moon rose, and it looked much greater than the stars. The little kid thought "then, the moon must be my creator." However, in the morning when the sun began to rise, the moon disappeared. The sun brightened everywhere and dazzled the eyes. It looked much more gigantic than the moon. Then, he understood that the moon cannot be his creator. When the sun rose, the stars disappeared in its lights. Who has created everything must be the greatest and the strongest. "I found it! The sun!" said he. He spent the day joyfully, but suddenly, what is that? The sun began to get smaller, and then set and disappeared behind hills. Then he said "No! Who has created all these beauties and me cannot be the sun. The thing that descends and disappears cannot create anything. My creator and the creator of whole universe is the greatest being that can never be overwhelmed, and that is full of love and mercy."

"Yes" he said. "Yes, I have found my Creator! The One who have created us resembles nothing... I cannot see Him now, but I feel Him wholeheartedly. There is Allah who has created the whole universe!"



The Chapter That Introduces Allah

Yes O children! Allah has created all of us.
He introduces Himself to us in chapter al-Ikhlās (112) in
the Holy Qur'an.

Let's learn this chapter and let's know Him.

The Chapter al-Ikhlās

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
(قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ (٢) لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ (٣)
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ (٤))

Qul huwa Allahu ahad.

(Raise your forefinger up.)

Allahu's-Samad.

(Shake your hands and head as if you say "No")

Lam yalid wa lam yulad.

(Move your hands up and down like a pregnant woman's abdomen, and then
shake them as if to say "No")

Wa lam yakun lahu kufuwan ahad.

(Make the sign of equivalence rubbing your forefingers to each other, and
again shake your hands and head as if you say "No")

What Does this Chapter Tell Us?

Chapter al-Ikhlās, Chapter al-Ikhlās,
consists of 4 verses, consists of only 4 verses.

It was revealed in Mecca.

It is a proof for the existence and oneness of Allah,
It became an evidence that He was neither begotten, nor does He beget,

It became a concise and clear response,
to those who questions the existence of Allah.

Abdullah is So Sad

For a long time, Abdullah's mother could not move as she could do before. Was she sick? She has already put on a lot of weight and been feeling exhausted quickly.

While Abdullah was sitting in a corner and sadly thinking about his mother, Aisha came and said:

- O my dear friend, what happened to you? Why do you look so sad? Abdullah, drawing a sigh, replied:

- O Aisha, I think my mom contracted a serious disease. Her abdomen got very big. She could not take care of me anymore as she did before. I am very bored at home, as you know, I don't even have a sibling. Aisha said:

- You should not make negative conclusions right away, have you ever asked your mother or father? There might be another reason for your mother's gaining much weight. Abdullah said:

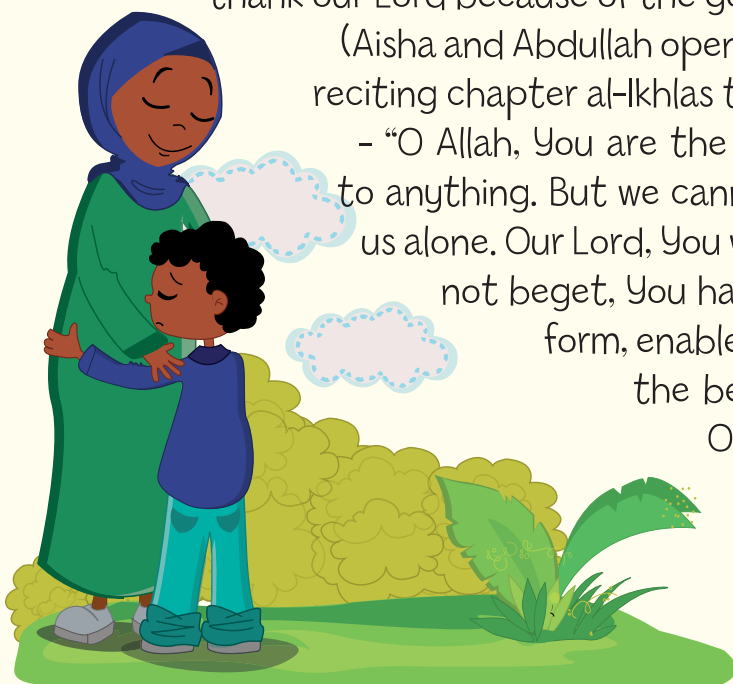
- Yes, you are right. I should ask my mom and learn how I can help her. (He immediately ran to his mother. After a short time, he joyfully came back to Aisha.) Abdullah said,

- O Aisha, you were totally right, my mother is not ill. My mother said there is another reason of it. My mum is pregnant. Yippee! Now I am going to have a little sibling! Aisha:

- Congratulations to you. I am very happy for you. Abdullah, let's thank our Lord because of the good news, and pray to Him.

(Aisha and Abdullah opened their hands and prayed by reciting chapter al-Ikhlās that they have just learned.)

- "O Allah, You are the One, You are never in need to anything. But we cannot live alone, do not leave us alone. Our Lord, You were not begotten, You do not beget, You have created us in the best form, enable our siblings to be born in the best form as well. You are Omnipotent, You do not resemble any thing."



Are You Ready to Add New Ones to Asma al-Husna Which We Have Learned Before?

الْمُؤْمِنُ



By His name **Al-Mu'min**, He gives us faith and keeps us in safety.

By His name **Al-Muhaymin**, He watches and protects us. He records our worships and what we performed as good and He recompenses all of them.

الْمُهَيَّمِنُ



الْعَزِيزُ



Allah, who is **al-'Aziz**, controls immense oceans, huge mountains and the sun. Everything listens to Him and bends down before Him. Nothing can defeat Him.

الْجَبَّارُ



Al-Jabbar repairs all fractures. Everything obeys His command.

Allah, who is **al-Mutakabbir** demonstrates His Might by enormous waves.

الْمُتَكَبِّرُ



الْخَالِقُ



Al-Khaliq is the One who creates everything out of naught. He is the Creator.

الْبَارِئُ



Al-Bari creates various and different things in harmony.

There are Angels Who Save Us

There are angels that Allah has created from "Nur" (light).



They never eat or drink. They are neither male nor female. They only fulfill the tasks that Allah has appointed to them.

There are angels who hold the sky and the earth in its proper place. So any star from the sky does not fall suddenly on our heads.

Each and every one of the raindrops is taken down by an angel from the sky. Therefore, the rain does not drain off upon our heads like a cataclysm, and does not turn into flood and destroy our homes.

Our eyes, nose, ears do not burst to one side like a broken glass when we fall in a heap. Angels save us and hold us.



They write as goodness when we plan to do good things in our minds. They also record wrong deeds committed by the people. Allah gives rewards and gifts to those who perform good actions, and gives punishments which those who commit bad actions deserve.

When we sleep after we take ablution and say our prayer of sleep, the angels employed by Allah come to us. They pray for us and save us from all bad things.

The End to the Fear of Darkness

Abdullah could not take out of his mind the names of the angels that he had learned in the class. To him, it was very nice that there are angels who protect him. He was not alone anymore against the darkness during the night, sounds and shapes that make him afraid. Besides, there was no need to try to sleep with his mother secretly anymore. Yippee! He immediately put on his pajamas, brushed his teeth and took ablution properly. He lied down upon his right side and began to say the prayer that the Prophet used to say,

Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya (Oh Allah, I die and revive with Your name.)

Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya (Oh Allah, I die and revive with Your name.)

Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya (Oh Allah, I die and revive with Your name.)

When his mother came into his room saying “Abdullah”, she could not believe that his son lied down in his bed and was sleeping. She thought Abdullah was trying to trick her. She came closer to him slowly and tickled him. However, strangely, he was not laughing but continued to sleep. However, he used to make every effort in order to not sleep.

His mother said on that day “My little Abdullah is growing up. He can sleep by himself anymore. My dear son, I love you.”

Let us play too

Come on and let us recite the prayer of sleep as Abdullah did. Then we will see who will be able to sleep. “Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya” (Bukhari, Daawat, 7, 8, 16) Allah the Almighty expresses in Chapter al-i Imran (3) (verse 125): “Yes, if you remain patient and conscious of Allah and the enemy come upon you [attacking] in rage, your Lord will reinforce you with five thousand angels having marks [of distinction]”

How nice! Fortunately, there are angels!

After the prayer, children lie down upon the ground or on the table and sleep, the teacher tickles them but they do not get up. After all the students are tickled, the teacher says the sun rises and all of them wake up as in the morning.



The Game of 4 Great Angels

Let all students say from the beginning to the end. There are 4 great angels. Let's play "4 Great Angels" and let's learn them.

4 Great Angels among all other the angels (Show number 4 by your fingers.)

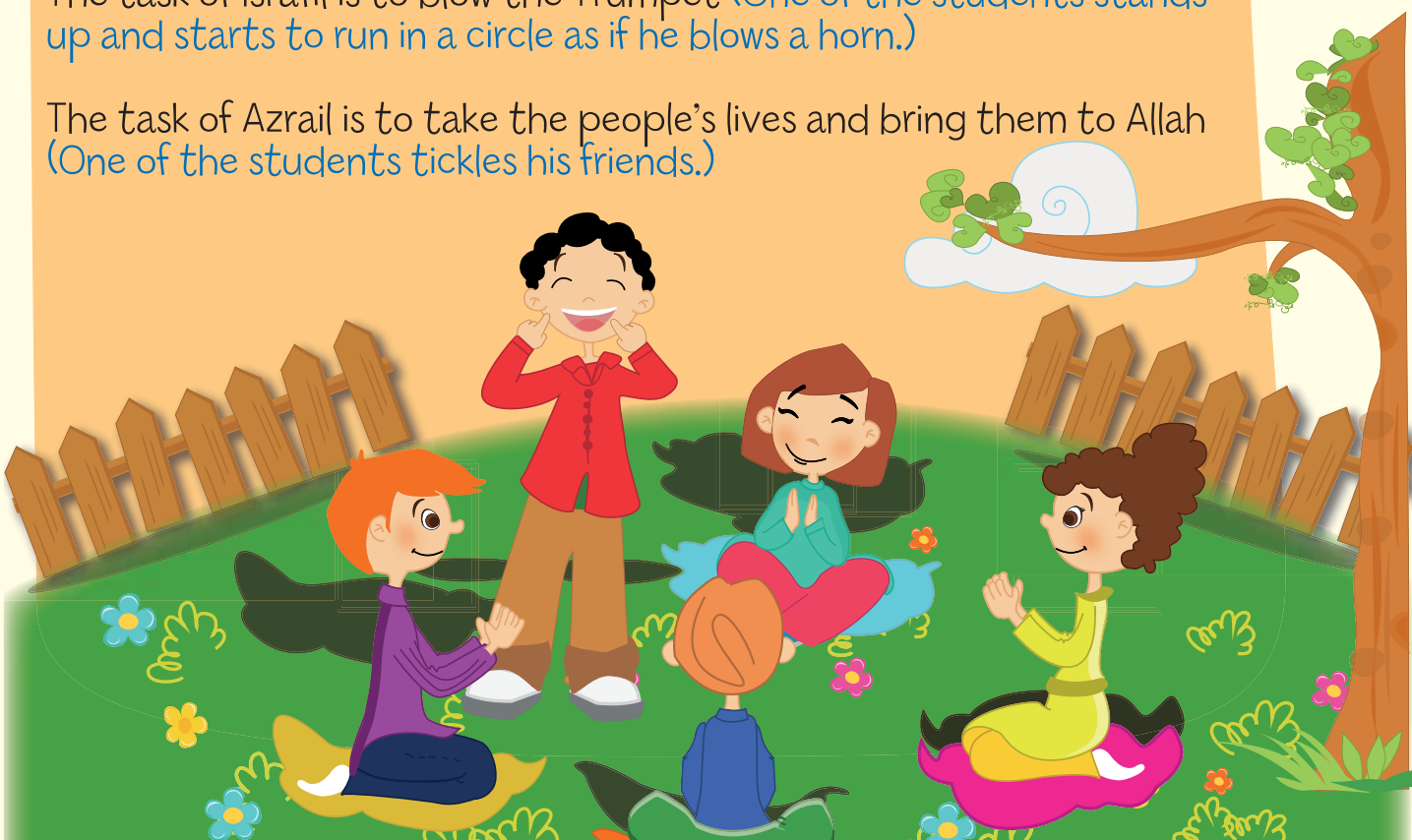
Jibril, Mikail, Israfil, Azrail (Say their names by keeping time with an applause)

The task of Jibril is to deliver the revelation to the messengers of Allah (One of the students stands up and starts to run in a circle putting his hand to his mouth.)

The task of Mikail is to maintain the order of the natural events (One of the students stands up and starts to run in a circle making a wind.)

The task of Israfil is to blow the Trumpet (One of the students stands up and starts to run in a circle as if he blows a horn.)

The task of Azrail is to take the people's lives and bring them to Allah (One of the students tickles his friends.)



The Books that Teach How to be Happy

Allah the Almighty sent down some books in order for us to read them so that we can learn righteousness, goodness and become happy and healthy. He revealed four great books to four great prophets.

Our Lord says us, "O you who have believed, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before." (Chapter al-Nisa, 4: 136) Therefore, we believe in them.

Unfortunately, some people changed and distorted the first three of those books.

Upon this, Allah sent down the last book, which is our divine book the Noble Qur'an, in order to prevent us from learning wrong things from altered books, making mistakes and becoming sad.

He brought down us the miraculous book that would never be changed by anyone, which is the Qur'an.

How much our Lord loves us! Doesn't He?

Are you ready now to learn the four great books by playing a game?



4 Great Books

One of the students stands up and rise one of his hands in a way that he holds a book. Then, he starts to whirl round without bringing his hand down. And this action is repeated for each of the prophets. The game continues until all the students in the class do that.

The Prophet Musa with the **Torah** in his hands

Whirls round the circle of love saying Hu

Whirls round the circle of love saying Allah

The Prophet Dawud with the **Psalms** in his hands

Whirls round the circle of love saying Hu

Whirls round the circle of love saying Allah

The Prophet Isa with the Gospel in his hands

Whirls round the circle of love saying Hu

Whirls round the circle of love saying Allah

The Prophet Muhammad with the **Qur'an** in his hands

Whirls round the circle of love saying Hu

Whirls round the circle of love saying Allah



Our Book is the Noble Quran

The Qur'an is the miraculous book which is preserved by God.

Allah the Almighty says: "Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian." (Chapter al-Hijr, 15: 9) He teaches us various things by means of the Qur'an.

Do you wonder what our divinely revealed book, the Noble Qur'an, tells us?

Our beautiful book, the Qur'an, teaches us how bees make honey, how the earth, the sun and the moon move, how human beings take shape in their mother's womb, how much olive and fig are important for a healthy life, healing verses that cause us to regain our health when we fall ill, how to have a healthy and happy life, respect for elders and compassion for younger ones, goodness, and teaches that all beauties in this life increase when we share them with others, and many more. The more we read the Qur'an, the more we become knowledgeable. We stay away from errors by finding out the information granted us by Allah. We can have a beautiful life implementing the advice and commands of Allah. We love the Qur'an very much. And it loves us as well.

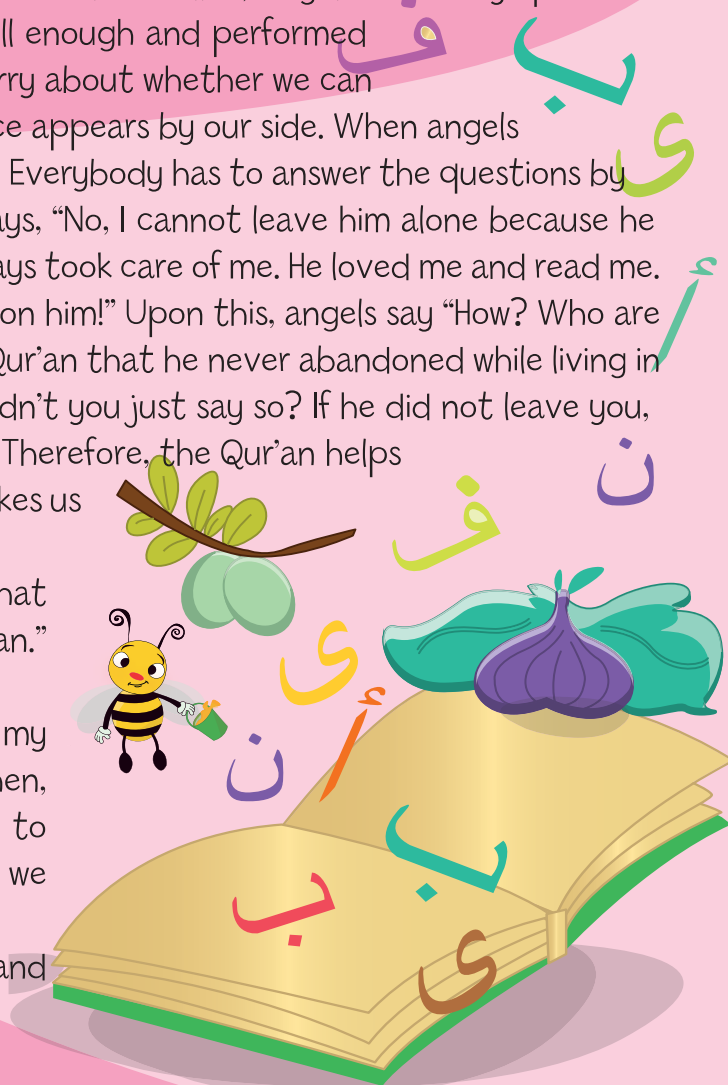
But how?

Our Prophet tells us: After Azrail takes our souls to Allah, angels ask many questions to us regarding whether we knew Allah well enough and performed good deeds in our worldly life. While we worry about whether we can know all questions, someone who is very nice appears by our side. When angels say, "Nobody is treated with injustice here. Everybody has to answer the questions by themselves, so step aside." That person says, "No, I cannot leave him alone because he did not leave me alone in the world. He always took care of me. He loved me and read me. And now, this is my turn. I will never abandon him!" Upon this, angels say "How? Who are you?" and it replies saying, "I am the Holy Qur'an that he never abandoned while living in the world." Angels say smiling that "why didn't you just say so? If he did not leave you, then you are allowed to be with him now." Therefore, the Qur'an helps us in every question that we will face. It makes us reach our Lord.

Because of this fact, our Prophet says that "Afdalu 'ibadati ummati tilawat al-Qur'an." (Suyuti; Al-Jami' Al-Saghir, 1304)

He says: "The noblest type of worship of my Ummah is the recitation of the Qur'an." Then, what are we waiting for... Let's learn how to read the Qur'an, let's repeat the verses we memorized already.

The Qur'an is our savior both in this world and in the hereafter.



The Messengers who Teaches the Rights with Love and Patience

Allah the Almighty has sent down divine books so that we can learn how to live together in the best way with health and without fighting each other. He had chosen prophets among us. And those prophets taught us the way that we should behave. They became role models by their good manners for all people, just like a warmhearted teacher.

As His prophets Allah the Almighty chose His servants

- ★ Who always and everywhere tell the truth,
- ★ Who take right and fair decisions and behave in accordance with them,
- ★ Who are extremely wise and clever,
- ★ Who never demonstrate any bad action,
- ★ Who tell us whatever Allah told them, even without making the slightest change.

He gave them the task to teach about Himself, good manners, and righteousness. They gladly tried to teach us what Allah had told them. They warned us so that we do not commit any sin and stay away from errors. However, some people did not listen to the prophet who was sent to them, and objected him.

Even they behaved very badly to him. However, in the end, they became the losers. They did not know the fact that those who believe in God always win.

Allah the Almighty says: "O children of Adam, if there come to you messengers from among you relating to you My verses, then whoever fears Allah and reforms there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve. (Al-A'raf, 7: 35) How much our Lord loves us! How He tries to save us in order that we can be happy. He does many things only for us, does not He?



Here the Prophets!

Yes, the prophets are the warners who conveyed us the message that they had taken from Allah. The first one among the prophets was the prophet Adam who was also the first human being. In the Qur'an, the names of 28 prophets have been mentioned. Now, it is time to learn their names in chronological order..

It will be repeated together with others in unison. The same hand movement will be done in every four names. A different move will be made when it is time to pass to another four names. For instance, while everybody puts their forefinger forward in the first move, forefingers should be moved up and down in the second move. In the third one, everybody should shake his or her hand to the left and right side. This is how the moves should be.

Adam Idris Noah Hud
Adam Idris Noah Hud

Saleh Ibrahim Lot Ishmael
Saleh Ibrahim Lot Ishmael

Ishaq, Yaqub, Yusuf, 'Ayyub
Ishaq, Yaqub, Yusuf, 'Ayyub

Shu'ayb Musa Harun Dawid
Shu'ayb Musa Harun Dawid

Suleiman Ilyas Alyasa Zulkifl
Suleiman Ilyas Alyasa Zulkifl

Yunus Zachariah Yahya Isa
Yunus Zachariah Yahya Isa

Uzayr Luqman Zulkarnayn
Uzayr Luqman Zulkarnayn

Muhammad Mustafa
Peace be upon them all!



My Dear Prophet

The last prophet sent by Allah is our prophet!..

We are the Ummah of the Prophet Muhammad peace and blessings be upon him!

Allah the Almighty says to our prophet: "And with the truth We have sent the Qur'an down, and with the truth it has descended. And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a bringer of good tidings and a warner." (Al-Isra, 17: 105)

Each prophet will have a river in Paradise. The name of the river which our prophet will have is the River of Kawthar, which is also the greatest one among others. Kawthar means abundance and blessing. People who believe in our prophet and follow him will drink from that river. They will swim in it and get out of it and their body will be sparkling and shining. When those who see them in Paradise ask them "Whom you are among the Ummah of (people), how can you shine that much?" they will reply: "We are the Ummah of the Prophet Muhammad, we clean ourselves in the River of Kawthar, that's why our body shines so much." When it comes to those who deny our prophet and make fun of him, they will not be remembered at all. They will vanish off the face of the earth. How sad... Allah the Almighty has told us all these in Chapter al-Kawthar (108).



The Chapter Telling us About Our Prophet Let's Learn Chapter al-Kawthar (108)!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا آغْطِيَنَّكَ الْكَوْثَرَ (١) فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ (٢)
إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ (٣)

The Chapter Al-Kawthar

Inna a'taynaka'l-kawthar

(Move your hands just like the flowing of a river.)

Fasalli li-rabbika wanhar

(Make a sign of slaughtering and praying.)

Inna shaniaka huwa'l-abtar.

(Move your one hand forward and stop it with your other hand.)

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Kawthar, Chapter al-Kawthar
Consists of 3 verses, consists of 3 verses.

It was revealed in Mecca.

It will become for us a river of abundance
and a blessing in Paradise.

Those who made fun of our prophet
became frustrated, and became "Abtar
(cut off)."

Aisha's Joy

Aisha was rushing about the streets in enthusiasm, she was very happy.

Abdullah: O Aisha, can you please tell me what made you so much happy?

Aisha: It is because my dad Abdullah will go to “the Palace of Happiness.” That is why I am so happy.

Abdullah: Did you say the Palace of Happiness, where is it?

Aisha: My mom told me that it is in Paradise. Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said, “No-body is allowed to enter the Palace of Happiness in Paradise except those who make children happy.”

Abdullah: How nice! What did your father do in order to make you so happy, O Aisha?

Aisha: The works which my father deals with finished very fast because I helped him a lot in his works today. And my father was very pleased with this, and we played the games together that I like most in the rest of his time. It is so much fun to play with my dad.

Abdullah: Our beloved Prophet also used to love all children like your father. He used to joke with them and play with them. If only we could have seen him. If only we could have played together with him, that would have been great. Wouldn't it have been O Aisha?

Aisha: Sure, it would have been great. I hope we can play in the Palace of Happiness in Paradise together with him.

Abdullah: Yes. Besides, we can drink from the water of the River of Kawthar in Paradise which our teacher told us, so that we can brightly shine.



Everlasting Life After Death

All the things that are created have an end. Every living being dies one day. Every new thing gets older and everyone who gets older dies in the end, just like a flower... It sprouts, blooms and fades away. And another flower comes out from its seed. Likewise, we are born and grow up as human beings. The seeds that we have obtained in this world will bloom in the hereafter. Yes, there is a life after death. We do not perish under the ground when we die. We will be brought back to life again after death. If the deeds that we have done in this world are good, in other words, if our seeds are good, those seeds will welcome us in Paradise in the form of flowers that smell beautifully.

Angels who record our good and bad deeds will place before us our book that they have recorded. Its pages will be opened, and then all good deeds, beauties, rights and wrongs will be revealed, no matter how small or great they are. Then we will be left alone together with what we did in this world. If our deeds are adorned with beauties, they will take us to Paradise.

All good deeds that we perform, even those which we just thought about, will meet us as a nice surprise. Those good deeds make us gain great rewards there.

If the bad deeds that we did outweigh the good ones written in our book, we will be left alone with all injustices and those evils we committed in our worldly life. What a great regret! What a painful situation! Paradise will become really far from that kind of people.



Protective Prayers

Allah teaches us two prayers in the Qur'an. If we keep saying them, He promises that He will save us and our beloved ones on the Day of Judgment. Are you ready to learn them? Come on then, we all learn the prayers of "Rabbana Atina and Rabbanaghfirli".

Rabbana Atina - Rabbanaghfirli

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ
 رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ

Rabbana atina fid'dunya hasanatan wa fil'akhirati hasanatan
 wa qina azabannar.

Rabbanaghfirli wa li-walidayya wa lil-Mu'minina yawma yaqumu'l hisab.

Their Meanings

Our Lord! Grant us good in this world
 and good in the hereafter.

And save us from the chastisement of the fire.

O our Lord!

Cover (us) with Your Forgiveness - me, my parents, and (all) Believers,
 on the Day that the Reckoning will be established!

Abdullah's Bird

Abdullah heard the sound of a bird while he was coming back from the school to the home. He always heard the sounds of birds around, but this time it was quite different. A bird was singing as if it was crying. Abdullah got very curious about it. Then he began to look around thinking about where the bird can be. He walked toward the direction where the sound came from. Then, he said “Oh my God, what is that!” A small bird had fallen from the nest and was fluttering. Abdullah wanted to replace the small bird to its nest. However, when he took the bird into his hands, he saw that the bird could not move one of its wings.

Abdullah became very sad upon this incident, and ran quickly to his home saying:

- O small bird, I should take you to my home to heal you. Together with his father, they applied ointment to its wing and dressed the wound. Day by day, Abdullah got used to the small bird. Even he gave it a name. Then, everybody started to call it “Pirpir”.



Every day, Abdullah began to save the leftovers of his own food. It was because he wanted to feed his small bird. However, Pirpir was losing weight day by day. And somehow its wing was not getting better.

Abdullah became sad because he could not do anything for his bird. One day, he looked at small Pirpir and noticed that it was not moving. Unfortunately, the small bird had already been dead.

Aisha came to visit her friend as soon as she learned the incident:

- I am sorry to hear of your loss O my friend! This incident reminds me our beloved Prophet (pbuh). When little Zaid lost his bird as you lost yours, our Prophet visited him, delivered his condolences to with him and shared his grief. I just wanted to take him as my role model. So that I came to you to share and to alleviate your sorrow at least a bit.



Abdullah: Thank you my dear friend. How tactful our Prophet (pbuh) was. Aisha, I am so glad to have you are here with me and stood by me.

Aisha and Abdullah, who met the reality of death for the first time, think that it was time to recite prayers called “Rabbana” which they just learned. They opened their hands and prayed saying:

- Our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter.

Abdullah’s grief eased off and felt a bit more relaxed. After a while, two friends were back in the game.



WE ARE LEARNING
HOW TO WORSHIP
YIPPEE!♥

All Creatures are in Worship



Trees worship by shaking their branches, seas worship by their waves, birds worship by singing and ants worship by working hard. All living beings worship in the way that is most suitable for their creation.

As human beings, we also worship. We thank God saying, “Our Lord! How great things You granted us, how much you love us.” Everything that we have done for the sake of God can be considered as “worship”. If we greet people whom we meet saying “al-salamu alaikum”, it would be a kind of worship because we mention the name of Allah. Because of that worship, we will be rewarded by Paradise and people will also like us. If we recite basmala before eating something, it is considered as worship as well. Our food turns into energy in our body and protects us from diseases. If we pray when we fall ill, even that illness turns to a kind of worship as well. That illness will welcome us in the form of gifts and rewards in Paradise. Besides, we easily get healthy again. If we set out saying “Oh my Lord, I am going to school for You, I will learn many good things and I will do good. Bismillah” this is considered as an act of worship. We will get “points for paradise” for each step that we take until we arrive in the school. If we pray before sleep, our sleep also turns into a kind of worship. Our sleep is regarded as a good deed just like performing prayer and fasting. We will learn that kind of worships in detail later.

As you see, when we worship, we live a happier and healthier life. Furthermore, we will be rewarded with many gifts in Paradise that do not have an end, do not become old and do not break forever and ever. Yippee!

How nice, isn't it? When we worship to Allah, He does not gain anything. However, He grants us many things although He does not gain. Allah, Who is al-Wahhab, offers many rewards to His servants without expecting anything in return.



Let's Thank Allah by Mentioning His Beautiful Names

Let's see, where were we...

Allah, ar-Rahman, ar-Rahim, al-Malik, al-Quddus, al-Salam, al-Mu'min, al-Muhaymin, al-Aziz, al-Jabbar, al-Mutakabbir, al-Khaliq, al-Bari. We have learned all these beautiful names before. Now, it is time to learn new ones.

Al-Musawwir

الْمُصَوِّرُ

Imagine if our eyes were on our head, or our fingers were on our nose, how hard the things would be for us. Allah, Who is al-Musawwir, is the One Who creates everything in the most beautiful and harmonious way.

الْغَفَّارُ

Al-Ghaffar

Allah forgives all our mistakes as long as we try to stay away from wrong deeds and to be a righteous person.

Al-Qahhar

الْقَهَّارُ

He is the One Who has the absolute superiority and greatness. He gives punishment to those who commit bad deeds and tyrannize people and other creatures. He overcomes them.

الْوَهَّابُ

Al-Wahhab

Allah grants us many things without expecting anything in return. He never leaves us without sun during the day. Oxygen that enables us to breathe easily is already present in air. He never even makes us think and worry about them. How much He loves us, doesn't He?

Al-Razzaq

الرَّزَّاقُ

He provides all kind of foods for all of His creatures. He sustains them all as He wishes. He even provides the sustenance of a black ant under a black stone. He does not forget it.

الْفَتَّاحُ

Al-Fattah

Allah opens all the ways that lead to good. He facilitates all hardships for us. He is always the greatest helper of us.

The Chapter That Opens the Ways to Goodness

How many things Allah does for us, doesn't He?

Thus, let us show our thankfulness to Him.

Let's utter His names with love, let's mention His name before starting our affairs,

Let's WORSHIP Him! Thus, we can always be among the winners both in this world and in the hereafter. How nice! Whoever believes in Allah, will certainly be a winner. Allah opens the Qur'an with chapter al-Fatiha, namely the Qur'an begins with it. By means of that chapter, He teaches us how we should pray and worship. Come on then, let's learn this chapter.

The Chapter al-Fatiha

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ (١)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ (٢) الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ (٣) مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ (٤)
إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ (٥) اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ (٦) صِرَاطَ
الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ (٧)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Alhamdu lillahi rabbil'alamin.

Arrahmanir'rahim. Maliki yawmiddin.

Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nasta'in,

Ihdinassirat'al mustaqim.

Siratalladhina an'amt alayhim

Ghayril maghdhubi alayhim wa laddallin.

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Fatiha, Chapter al-Fatiha. It consists of 7 verses, It consists of 7 verses. It was revealed in Mecca as an invocation, in Medina as a chapter. It begins with praise, with thankfulness To the Lord of all the worlds, to the Owner of everything. You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help. We pray saying: "O Allah, guide us to the straight path.

Not the path of those who have brought down wrath, nor of those who go astray." So al-Fatiha becomes "the opener," it opens all the gates to goodness.

Al-Fatiha turns to a treasure, and beautifies our hearts.

Abdullah's Joy

Abdullah had a stomachache. His mother took him on her lap and caressed his stomach with her hand. In the meantime, she was mumbling something. When he started to listen to her with utmost care, he realized that what his mother was mumbling is chapter al-Fatiha that they had learned at school. As soon as his mother stopped recitation, Abdullah said “amin” from inside:

- Mummy, why did you recite chapter al-Fatiha? Doesn't that chapter teach us how to worship Allah, he asked. And his mother fondled his hairs with love and said:

- O my smart son! Al-Fatiha is the first chapter of the Qur'an and opens the gate of the Qur'an to us. It teaches us how to thank Allah. It leads us to the good. It restores the wounds of our soul. Our prophet said, “al-Fatiha is the remedy of all kind of discomforts.” If we recite it to be healthier, it would recover our body as well. Even our Prophet used to put his hand upon where he felt pain in his body and puff away the pain reciting the chapter al-Fatiha. Thus, Allah would provid healing for his disease.

Abdullah jumped up excitedly and said:

- Mummy, I have no stomachache now, it has completely gone. Then, he began to jump in joy.



Allah Loves Those Who are Clean

Our Lord, Who is al-Quddus, is pure, and He loves very much those who are pure.

But, how can we be clean?

We can purify ourselves by saving our mouth from bad words,

Our eyes from bad sights,

Our ears from bad speeches,

Our heart from grudge, hatred and treachery,

Our hands and feet from doing wrong actions.

When we hear a bad word,

When we make a mistake and become sad,

When bad thoughts come to our mind,

When we think of wrong and ugly things

“أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ”

“Astaghfirullah al azim wa atubu ilayh”

(I ask Allah the Almighty for forgiveness and I repent for my errors.)

Let's say this and get purified.

My Body is Very Clean



In order to keep our body clean,

We brush our teeth, take ablution everyday, and take a bath lustration (ghusl) at least once a week.

Our prophet said, "Verily, my Ummah will be called on the Day of Judgment with the light on their faces, with brightness on their hands and feet as a sign of ablution they used to take. Hence, let those who want to brighten their face take ablution." (Bukhari, Wudu' 3; Muslim, Taha-rah 35)

Don't you also want to shine brightly and dazzle? Let us take ablution then. But how? Let's learn how to perform ablution;

There are four obligatory acts of minor ablution (wudu). (Students make the sign of four by raising their four fingers)

1. Washing our face, (Students rub their faces by their hands)
2. Washing our arms up to our elbows (including elbows), (Students rolls up their sleeves up to their elbows as if they get ready to perform ablution)
3. Wiping one fourth of our head, (Students rub their heads by their right hands)
4. Washing the feet up to ankles (including ankles) (Students pretend like they are washing their feet)
(Students clap their hands three times)

We need to wash our body at least once a week, so that we purify our body from all microbes and diseases. The bath we take is called "ghusl".

There are three obligatory acts of major ablution (ghusl) (Students make the sign of three by raising their three fingers.)

1. Rinsing the mouth thoroughly (Students pretend like they draw water to their mouth by their right hand and rinse their mouth.)
2. Drawing water in to the nose (Students pretend like they draw water to their nose by their right hand.)
3. Washing our whole body (Students rub their whole body as if they are washing their body)
(Students clap their hands three times)



What Should We Do Now?

Abdullah and Aisha were playing together repeatedly saying the following hadith: “At-tuhuru shatr ul-iman, at-tuhuru shatr ul-iman.” (Cleanliness is the half of faith, cleanliness is the half of faith.)” (Muslim, Taharah 1)

Aisha said, “Abdullah do you know that the owner of the grocery store has started to call me the kid with shining face since I started to perform ablution regularly.”

Abdullah excitedly said, “Really? Our neighbor calls me the same way. I think that as I perform ablution, I am getting shinier. Also, my brother always hugs me saying “How beautiful you smell, I love the scent you have.”

Aisha: “O, I can’t believe. I am experiencing the same things. Then let’s try to stay in the state of ablution all the time. However, you know sometimes water services has been cut off for days. In that case, what can we do Abdullah?”

Both of them started to brood and got lost in thoughts. After a while, Imam Brother came there.

Imam Brother asked, “Why are you like that, what made you so sad?”

Abdullah started to ask, “What are we going to do in the absence of water? Are we going to stay dirty? Will we be still able to smell nice? And what will happen to our faith? Are we going to lose it? Are we going to lose the light on our face that shines brightly? What should we do?”

Imam Brother said, “Slow down, O Abdullah, ask one by one please. How does it become possible? Allah is clean, and He loves those who are clean. He created the soil so that we can purify ourselves with it. And He also replaced bacteria within the soil which can wipe out all the microbes which can potentially be harmful to us. Therefore, we can get ourselves cleaned by hitting our hands on soil. This is called “tayammum”.”

Abdullah and Aisha jumped exclaiming in joy “How nice!” They started to count the mandatory requirements of tayammum by hitting their hands on soil that was taught by Imam Brother.

There are two obligatory acts of dry ablution (tayammum)

(Students make the sign of two by raising their two fingers.)

1. To make intention

(Students put their hands on their hearts)

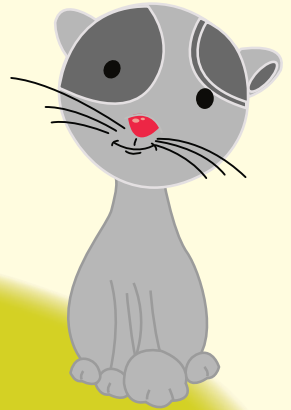
2. To strike the palms of both of our hands on earth and then rub our face

(Students strike their hands on the ground, then strike their hands to each other, and rub their faces) and then to strike the palms of both of our hands on earth and rub our arms (Students strike their hands on the ground, then strike their hands to each other, and rub their arms.)

(Students clap their hands three times)



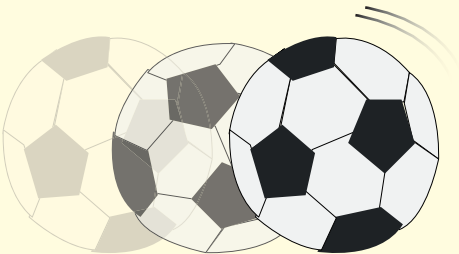
Let us Play Together



1
With two weeks intervals let's learn the requirements of ghusl and tayammum which have been already given in the form of nursery rhyme.

2
Then, let's repeat them together with the pillars of Islam and pillars of faith playing cheerfully.

Let's see who will be able to remember and say all these with a beautiful voice and without any mistake.



I am Getting Better by Means of Prayer

Now I would like to ask you a riddle. And the riddle is about a type of worship. Let's see if you can guess which worship I am talking about.

People who perform that worship are saved from all wrong attitudes. They get relaxed and feel at peace. Performing that worship leads us to be more careful and well-organized. It helps us be more successful.

I think you know this act of worship, don't you guys?

Let's sing our song in order to be more knowledgeable about prayer. Are you ready?

Dawn, noon,
Afternoon, and evening
Aaaaaand night.
I perform prayer 5 times a day.
So I keep my promise that I gave to my Lord.
All of the minor sins get cleansed
And We become virtuous people,
The light of prostration on our forehead
shines brightly.
Our prophet realizes his followers by this
shine.

Then we pass the layers of the sky and
ascend to presence of Allah.
Together with angels!..
We present our love to our Lord.
Dawn, noon,
Afternoon, and evening
Aaaaaand night.
I perform prayer 5 times a day.
So I keep my promise that I gave to my
Lord.



The Game of the Firmest Pillar

Our prophet said; “Assalatu imad u’ddin which means Prayer is the pillar of the religion.” Come on, let’s say this together and let’s see whether our teacher can knock down us. The one who utters it strongest will be proclaimed as the firmest pillar, hurry up!

Prayer is an indicator of our thankfulness to Allah in return for the blessings He granted to us. It means to say that O Allah, I am glad that you are always with me. When we perform our prayers and thank Allah, He gives us the glad tidings saying, “And the establishers of prayer... Those We will give a great reward.” (Chapter al-Nisa. 4: 162.)

Then why are we waiting for, let’s learn how to pray and gain the greatest rewards.



There are twelve obligatory acts of prayer.
Six of them must be done before the prayer
(Students make the sign of six by their fingers and then the sign of outside.)
Six of them must be done during the prayer
(Students make the sign of six by their fingers and then the sign of inside.)

The obligatory acts that must be done before prayer:

1. Purification from spiritual impurities (hadath); to perform ablution (Students pretend like they are cleaning themselves.)
2. Purification from material impurities (najasah); to get cleaned (Students pretend like they are cleaning their surroundings.)
3. Satr awrah; to cover body (Students pretend like they are putting something on and covering their body.)
4. Turning towards the direction of Mecca (Students stretch out their hands and pretend like they are showing direction.)
5. Time; performing the prayer in its established time (Students pretend like they are showing their watches.)
6. Intention; to make intention to perform prayer (Students put their hands on their hearts.)

The obligatory acts that must be done during prayer:

1. Opening takbir; to say Allahu Akbar at the beginning of prayer (Students raise their hands and make the gesture of takbir.)
2. Standing (qiyam); to stay standing for a while (Students stay standing.)
3. Recitation (Qiraah); to recite parts from the Qur'an (Students make the gesture of talking mouth by their hands.)
4. Bowing down (Ruku); (Students bow down like they are performing ruku during prayer.)
5. Prostration (Sajda); to go down to prostration (Students prostrate like they are prostrating during prayer.)
6. Kada-i Akhira; the final sitting (All students sit down.)



Aisha Starts to Pray

Aisha has just learned how important performing prayer is. She was wondering what is mentioned in the Qur'an about its reward.

“And the establishers of prayer [especially] and the givers of zakah and the believers in Allah and the Last Day - those We will give a great reward.” (Chapter al-Nisa, 4: 162)

Aisha thought, “I wonder if I can speak with my Allah. Does He listen to me? What can that great reward be, can I receive it? I should start to pray so that I can learn all these” and she decided to keep praying. However, Aisha started to feel bad more every passing day. Her friend Abdullah realized the sadness of Aisha.

Abdullah asked, “What happened to you recently, Aisha? What made you so much upset?”

Aisha said, “As you know, I started to perform my daily prayers like you.”

Abdullah said, “Yes, I congratulate you. You act as a Muslim in the real sense. You are performing your prayer which is commanded by Allah.”

Aisha said, “I hope I perform my prayers properly. I started to pray enthusiastically at the beginning. But now, I am so sad because I realized that my bad behaviors did not come to an end day by day.”

Abdullah said, “You are right, prayer definitely keeps a person away from wrong actions and behaviors. However, it is not so easy. We might not get away from our bad habits that we used to do just in two days. The prayer that is performed consistently and properly keeps us away from all kind of misconducts.”



Aisha said, “Abdullah, I think Allah doesn’t want to speak with me because of my bad deeds, and He doesn’t give the great reward to me.”

Abdullah said, “No way, come on! Allah permits to be with Him only those among His servants whom He loves, and He takes them into His presence.”

Aisha said, “Do you mean that performing prayer is an indication of Allah’s love for me, Abdullah?”

Abdullah replied, “Sure Aisha, not everyone can prostrate before Him. Allah speaks with only those who believe in Him.”

Aisha: Then yippee! Do you know Abdullah? I have already received the greatest reward while I am in this world. Can there be any news greater than this? Allah loves me. Allah loves me!



We Are Ascending

Up To the Highest Places By Means of Prayer

When we perform our prayer, we ascend to the highest places as our Prophet had done during the incident of Mi'raj. Do you know that we repeat the speech between Allah and our Prophet during our sitting at the end of the prayer, just like in Mi'raj. And angels love this so much that they recite Kalima al-Shahadah. That speech is called Tahiyat. Let's learn it, and let's speak with our Allah as our prophet did.

The Invocation of Tahiyat

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

التَّحِيَّاتُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَوَاتُ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ * السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ
وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ * السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ *
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

At-tahiyatu lillahi wa's-salawatu wa't-tayyibat.

As-Salamu alayka ayyuhan nabiyyu wa rahmatu'llahi

Wa barakatuh. As-salamu alayna wa ala ibadillahi's-salihin.

Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah wa ashhadu
anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluh.

Its Meaning:

All kind of worships, good deeds, benefactions
and favors done by tongue, body and possessions
are for the sake of Allah.

Oh you Messenger of Allah!

May Allah's greetings, mercy and blessings be
upon you.

May peace be upon us and
on all good servants of Allah.

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah,
and I bear witness that Muhammad is
His servant and messenger.



Friendship of Paradise

Abdullah: We always wonder about how Paradise is, don't we?

Aisha: Once my mom told that it is much more beautiful than we can imagine. I am also wondering how it is exactly.

Abdullah: If we follow a good type of conduct and never lie, in other words, if our paradise points increase, hopefully we can see together how Paradise is if Allah wills.

Aisha: I hope so Abdullah, I would really wish this. I am sure we enjoy together a lot, don't we?

Abdullah: Of course, I am sure it would be so nice! As far as I know, there is a huge and very beautiful gate in Paradise which is ornamented with colorful jewels. Who knows what is behind such a great gate.

Aisha: It would be very fantastic to get a foot through that door and to enjoy with the surprises prepared for us, wouldn't it Abdullah?

Abdullah: Who would not want that!

Aisha: You are right. I really wonder who will be able to come through the door to Paradise.

Abdullah: Our prophet said; "There is a door in Paradise which is called Rayyan. Only those who observe fasting can come through that door. After people who observe fasting enter, the door will be shut and anybody can no longer enter." (Bukhari, Sawm, 4; Muslim, Siyam, 166)

Aisha: Come on! Let's fast then, so that we can increase our paradise points, or our good deeds. The month of Ramadan when people fast is already coming!

Abdullah: That is great, so we can enter through the door of Rayyan and then see what is inside of paradise, and we can also be friends in Paradise ...



During the month of Ramadan, all believers must observe their fasting. But first of all, do you wonder about how to perform fasting? Let's learn it.

Let's Fast!



1. Sahur

Fasting starts with sahur.

(Rub your eyes as if you have just woken up.)

Then we eat whatever Allah has granted us.

(Move your chin as if you are eating something.)

2. Imsak

As soon as the time of imsak comes, we zip up our mouths.
(Close your lips.)

We do not eat anything. (Pretend to eat something by using your gestures,

then wave your hands as if you say "No")

We do not drink water either. (Pretend to drink water, and then wave your hands as if you say "No")

We never say anything bad, and nor do we listen to those who speak about bad things. (First close your mouth with your hand, and then, likewise, close your ears.)



3. Iftar

When the time for iftar comes, we say our prayers.

(Raise your hands and stay like we say prayers)

Then we nicely have our dinner.

(Pretend to eat something.)

We thank Allah for all blessings and graces He has granted us.



Our prophet would pay attention to children while they are fasting, and would play with them in order to help them forget their hunger. In this way, the children would not even feel how the time passed so fast. Our Prophet would also prepare surprise for them. How nice!

We are Getting Stronger by Means of Fasting

Such believers are the repentant, the worshippers, the praisers of Allah, the travelers for His cause, those who bow and prostrate [in prayer], those who enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong, and those who observe the limits [set by] Allah . And give good tidings to the believers. (Chapter al-Tawbah, 9: 112)

9: 112)

When we worship Allah, how nice surprises He prepares for us. How much He loves us.

Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) said: “Suu-muu tasihhuu” (Observe your fasting, then you will be healthy.) (Tabarani, Mu’jam al-Awsat, VIII, 174)

Do you know why? When we observe fasting, our body would be more resistant to hunger. Microbes cannot beat our body, and we will be so healthy.

Likewise, we can understand how poor people feel. We learn that eating anytime we want and whatever we want is very harmful to us

Can’t you see that observing the duty of fasting grows us stronger in this world, and leads us to pass through the door of Rayyan which is very special door in the hereafter!



THE MONTH OF FASTING AND ITS GIFTS



The month of Ramadan, the month of fasting, did not end yet.

We observe our fasting in that month, and we purify ourselves. We get much more rewards in return for the things that we have done.

Moreover, the Qur'an was sent down to the world in that month. Angel Gabriel used to recite the entire Qur'an with our Prophet from the beginning to the end during that month. In other words, they used to hatm the Holy Qur'an. Namely, which means they used to read the whole Qur'an together.

It is not over yet...

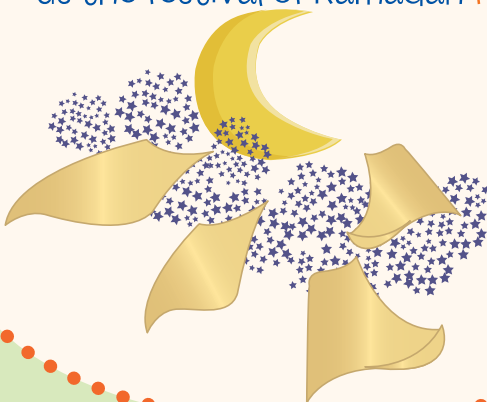
And what's more, there is a very beautiful night hidden among the nights of the month of Ramadan. It is called Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Power). In that night, all the angels descend to the earth, greet people who pray to Allah, and help them. Almighty Allah accepts all invocations said during that night, and gives thousand fold paradise points in return for all good deeds performed in that night. Do you wonder what does paradise point mean? It is all good deeds that make us win many surprises in paradise..

How beautiful is this!

Wait a minute! It is not over yet. Do you wonder what else there can be?

THE FESTIVAL OF RAMADAN, of course!

At the end of those days we observe fasting, Allah grants us the festival of Ramadan for His servants who are



SMILING, PATIENT, HELPFUL,
 RIGHTEOUS, HONEST AND
 GENEROUS in their conduct just for
 His sake.

Our prophet said: “every nation has feast days, and this is what our festival is. Feast means the days of rejoicing. (Bukhari, Idayn, 3)
Come on! Let’s celebrate our festival with joy.

DO YOU WONDER WHAT WE WOULD DO DURING FESTIVAL?



**We put on our
nicest clothes.**



**We perform
festival prayer.**



**We congratulate each
other's feast within
our family.**




**We give presents
to others.**



**We reconcile those
who are angry at
each other.**



**We visit elderly people,
and we make children
happy.**



THE ACT OF WORSHIP THAT INCREASES WEALTH THE MORE YOU SPEND

Our religion is the religion of goodness. Every believer is expected to give a specific amount of money he earns to those who are in need. He shares his money and wealth with other believers. Therefore, there would be no needy people left around us. If only everybody gave their alms! If only there were no one left in poverty.

Allah the Almighty heralds us in the first four verses of chapter al-Mu'minun (23) again: "Successful indeed are the believers, Who are humble in their prayers, And who keep aloof from what is vain, And who are givers of poor-rate."

When the zakah is given properly, there would be nobody in need left in the world.

When the zakah is given properly, all believers live in welfare.

When we pay zakah, we get richer.

GOOD NEWS!

"I am with you. If you establish prayer and give zakah and believe in My messengers and support them and loan Allah a goodly loan, I will surely remove from you your misdeeds and admit you to gardens beneath which rivers flow."

(Chapter al-Ma'ida, 5: 12)

BE CAREFUL!

Allah the Almighty tells about people who do not give alms and show off in chapter al-Maun. He warns us saying never be one of them, make others happy in order to be happy. Then let's learn chapter al-Ma'un.

Chapter al-Ma'un

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالْإِيمَانِ (١) فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ (٢) وَلَا يَحْضُرُ
 عَلَى طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ (٣) فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ (٤) الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ
 سَاهُونَ (٥) الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَآؤُنَ (٦) وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ (٧)

Ara'aytalladhi yukadhdhibu biddin. Fadhalikalladhhi yadu'ul yatim. Wa la yahuddu 'ala ta'ami'l miskin. Fawaylu'l lil musallin. Alladhina hum 'an salati-him sahun. Alladhina hum yurauna wa yamna'una al-Ma'un.

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Maun, consists of 7 verses, 7 verses.

It was revealed in Mecca.

Have you seen the one who denies the Recompense?

That is the one who drives away the orphan, and does not encourage the feeding of the poor.

Say woe to those who pray and make show of their deeds.

They withhold even a simple assistance. Oooooo!

I also Want to Give Alms

What he found out made Abdullah so excited. He wanted to give zakah as well. He said to his teacher:

- I want to pay zakah as well, I really want.

His teacher replied him smiling:

- You are just a kid yet, you need to grow up to give zakah. Zakah is a kind of worship for those who have enough property, who is sane, mature and independent. It is not imposed on kids.

Abdullah was very disappointed. However, he was reaverlylly eager to make other people happy and to obtain Allah's love.





When his teacher saw him while he was so upset, he said:

- You cannot give zakah, but you can give sadaqah. Just like zakah, sadaqah also makes people happy as well as leads you to gain Allah' love.

Abdullah heatedly started to think about what he can give as sadaqah. He grabbed his pockets, but could not find anything. He had nothing to share, even a little amount of food. He sadly sat in a corner. His teacher was aware of his problem, went up to him and whispered something to him. Afterwards, Abdullah began to jump joyfully with a twinkly face. His friends were curious about him and asked him about what happened to him and why he has such a big smile on his face.

- My teacher told me that our Prophet said, "Tabassumuka fi wajhi akhika sadaqatun or your smile to your brother's face is a charity." (Tirmidhi, Birr, 36) Smile is a kind of charity. If I smile I can get more paradise points as if I make charity. Yippee!..

His friends said "oh, how nice, let all of us smile at people from now on" and they started to run together hand in hand. At the same time, they were repeating the hadith of the Prophet: "Tabassumuka fi wajhi akhika sadaqatun. Tabassumuka fi wajhi akhika sadaqatun." And they did not forget to greet people they came across by saying "al-salam alaikum" with a smiling face.

Such cheerful and affectionate greetings relieve people's tiredness and troubles that they encountered, and left a nice smile in their place ...



GATHERING PLACE OF ALL MUSLIMS

Allah the Almighty commands us in the Qur'an, "And complete the Hajj and 'umrah for Allah..." (Chapter al-Baqarah, 2: 196) All Muslims who hear of this commandment come to Ka'bah from all over the world.

The first human being, as well as the first prophet, Adam made a small mistake and was sent from Paradise to this world. The earth was a strange place which is so small and has tiny mountains, trees, seas compared to that of paradise. It is not as colorful as the things in Paradise and they do not smell as beautiful as those in Paradise. He expressed his apologies to Allah for many years because he forgot and did not pay attention to what Allah had commanded to him. And finally he came to this world. He felt so regretful for this. He wandered on the earth praying, and then he recognized that he missed Paradise very much. While he was praying, begging Allah to see Paradise again, or to have a memory from Paradise to ease his longing for it, guess what he saw suddenly!

The angels that he saw while wandering in Paradise! They remember Allah whirling around a place in paradise. Yes, what he saw on earth was nothing other than this place with angles! Yippee! The Prophet Adam became so happy since it was the same place. It was the place where Ka'bah was located! He immediately placed the first stone of Ka'bah there. His longing for Paradise began to fade away and his heart became filled with peace.

Many many years later, the Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ishmael came there and rebuilt the walls of Ka'bah.

Again, many many years later, our Prophet took Ka'bah from the hands of people who turned it into an impure place, and he cleaned it out thoroughly. Thus, he presented it to the people to perform pilgrimage. It has become so beautiful.

The house of Allah, Ka'bah, has become the direction we turn to while performing prayer.

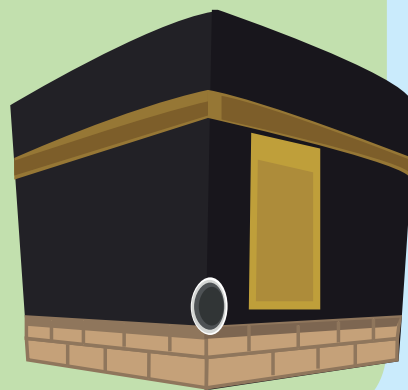
The house of Allah, Ka'bah, has been visited with lots of people since that time.

The house of Allah, Ka'bah, gathers people with different colors and languages.

The house of Allah, Ka'bah, brings people together as brothers of each other despite all kind of diversities.

The house of Allah, Ka'bah, has become the center of unity and solidarity.

The house of Allah, Ka'bah fills the hearts with joy. Those who visited Ka'bah and become pilgrims also become cleansed from their sins. They become pure and sinless like a newborn.



The Game of Pilgrimage Starts

Do you want to learn how to be a pilgrim?
Come on, let's learn the game and play it.
To play this game, students need to stand
in two lines
facing each other.

Among months, Dhulhijja is the month of hajj (pilgrimage)

(Wave your hands as if you show how months pass.)

Pilgrimage is an obligation for those who can afford

(Move your hands as if you show abundance of wealth.)

What are the pillars of pilgrimage?

(Put your one hand on your waist, and raise the other as if you are explaining something.)

I need to express my intention, and then put on the clothes of Ihram

(Put your hands on your heart and wipe your body as if you dress.)

I need to visit Ka'bah and to circumambulate it

(Move as if you walk around Ka'bah.)

I need to visit Arafat and perform waqfa standing there for some time

(Move as if you go up and down.)

I need to go to Muzdalifa and pray there

(Move as if you walk, and pray by kneeling down.)

In the morning of the feast, I stone the devils

(Pretend as if you have just woken up and then pretend like throwing stones.)

I sacrifice my animal, and cut my hair.

(Move your hands as if you slaughter and cut your hair)

I take off my Ihram clothes and perform my visiting circumambulation

(Walk towards the place of your friend standing right across you and change places with him/her)

I perform sa'y for pilgrimage between Marwa and Safa

(All students should replace with their friends by running.)

Then I become a pilgrim. I get cleansed from all of my sins

(Lift your hands up, and move your hands as if you rub and clean your body.)

I become a pilgrim. I become so happy

(Lift your hands up again, and jump.)

Shoulder to Shoulder with Our Brothers and Sisters

Abdullah put on the ihram clothes which is merely two pieces of white fabric and started to walk toward Ka'bah. He was so excited and wondering how Ka'bah is actually. He was surrounded by many people from different colors and speaking different languages. All of them were different from each other but they were walking to the same direction and chanting the same things: "Labbayk allahumma labbayk."

How many Muslims there were in this world, and such a huge crowd they were in!

If he did not pay attention, He might crash into one of his Muslim brothers, but he did not.

He could step on others' foot, but he did not.

He could get angry when people crashed him while passing by him, but he did not.

Because all of them came here for the same purpose... For the sake of Allah... That's why he showed patience and looked them smiling.

He smiled to those who crashed him.

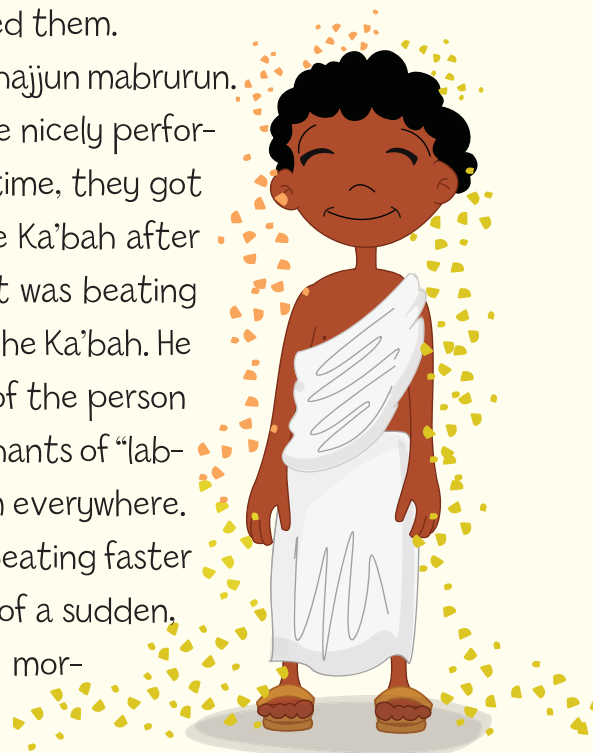
He greeted those whom he met.

He shared his food with people around him.

He held the hands of elderly people and helped them.

Our Prophet said, "Afdalu'l jihadi wa ajmaluhu hajjun mabrurun. (The best thing to do for the sake of Allah is the nicely performed pilgrimage.)" (Bukhari, Hajj, 4) In the meantime, they got very close to Ka'bah. He was finally going to see Ka'bah after stepping through the gate of Salam. His heart was beating fast. It was the first time he was going to see the Ka'bah. He has already known that Allah fulfils the wish of the person who sees the Ka'bah for the first time. The chants of "labbayk allahumma labbayk" were coming from everywhere.

He got closer and closer. His heart was beating faster and faster... Then he opened his eyes all of a sudden, it was his mom who said to him "Good morning Abdullah".



He could say nothing but “I could have been a pilgrim...” He quickly went to the school and told his dream to his friends. He told them how nice to perform pilgrimage and how great rewards there are for those who perform it sincerely... Then he start to repeat the hadith of the Prophet: “Afdalu’l jihadi wa ajmaluhu hajjun mabrurun, Afdalu’l jihadi wa ajmaluhu hajjun mabrurun, Afdalu’l jihadi wa ajmaluhu hajjun mabrurun.”

His friends also loved that hadith very much. All of them were pretending to run, and showing the sign of “nice” while they were repeating that hadith. Their teachers were watching them from a distance feeling proud of them all.

What is waiting at the end of the pilgrimage when it is performed patiently and nicely?

Of course, There is a FEAST!!!

THE FEAST OF SACRIFICE

People who are wealthy enough to sacrifice an animal slaughter animals such as cow, sheep, or camel during the festival days seeking the pleasure of God. They share the meat of sacrificed animals with those who cannot afford to buy meat, with their neighbors and relatives. Nobody is left hungry thanks to this festival.

The feast of sacrifice is the feast of help. It brings rich and needy people closer to each other.

This feast is also the feast of sacrificed animals, but how?

Animals that are not sacrificed for the sake of Allah will be perished when they die.

However, those that are sacrificed in the festival go to paradise... They wait for us there. When we arrive at the bridge of al-sirat and think how we can pass over that bridge, those animals welcome us. They say “come on, jump on my back so that I will carry you to Paradise”. Then we ride them, and hug them, feeling their warm and fluffy wool.

They take us to Paradise saying “I came to paradise thanks to you, how can I leave you alone on that bridge which is very difficult to pass?”

How Did Sacrificing Animals Begin?

Do you know why we sacrifice animals?

The Prophet Ibrahim did not have any kids. He really desired to have children who had good morality and did good deeds. Day and night, he was praying Allah to fulfill his desire. He wished this so much that he said in his prayer, "Dear Lord! Please bless me with a child. If you bless me with a child, I promise that I will sacrifice him for You." Upon that invocation, Allah the Almighty gave Ibrahim a healthy and very beautiful child. He named his son Ishmael. Ishmael was a very good child with beautiful morality. He was smiling all the time.

After a while, the Prophet Ibrahim saw a dream in which he sacrificed his son himself. He said when he woke up, "What a dream!"

The following night, he saw the same dream. This led him to think about whether it was a kind of warning from Allah.

In the third night, he saw the same dream. Just after that, he remembered the promise he had given to Allah. Then he thought, "what did I do? When a promise is given, it should be kept!" He went to his wife, Hajar, and said to her, "I will take our son to a friend of mine, can you please prepare him for this?"

Hajar nicely washed her son Ishmael and dressed him with nice clothes.

Just then, Satan transformed into the shape of a man came to Hajar and called out to her saying: "Hajar, Hajar!" When she replied him saying "Yes," Satan said to her, "Do you know where your husband takes your son?" Hajar answered him saying, "To his friend." And Satan said, "No, never. He will sacrifice your son, just go and save your son's life." Then Hajar asked him, "Who told him to do so?" He answered, "It is no one other than Allah. He ordered him to sacrifice his son. Just catch up him and save him. Upon this, Hajar picked up a stone and threw it to Satan saying, "Get out of here you Evil. I know now who you are. Allah never wants us to do something bad. I am sure there is a reason for this." When Satan was hit by the stone, he said: "Ugh, help!" and added "then I will go and deceive Ishmael." Just then, he ran to Ishmael shouting "Ishmael, Ishmael!" and asked him, "Do you know where your daddy takes you to?" Ishmael responded, "To a friend of him." And Satan screamed with a laughter saying: "To a friend? No way! Run and save your life right now, otherwise he will sacrifice you." When Ishmael asked him about how he came to know this,

Satan replied hi,: “Allah ordered him to do so, I swear. Run away, escape right now!” Upon this response Ishmael bent down, picked a stone from the ground, and threw it to Satan saying, “Get out of here you evil creature, you cannot deceive me. Allah only desires whatever is good for us.”

Satan ran to Ibrahim quickly shouting “Ugh, my head! I can never ever let you go to Paradise!” He said to Ibrahim, “Oh Ibrahim, are you aware of what you are doing? How can you think that Allah really wants you to sacrifice your own son? Don’t be fool, hug your son and go to your home. Never be afraid of Allah.” As soon as Ibrahim heard those, he threw a stone to him saying, “I have promised Allah. If I do not keep my promise, then I become a liar. I never tell a lie to Him.”

Upon this, Satan ran away from there saying to himself: “Ohh, shame on me, I could not deceive this son of Adam. Ugh, my head, I hurts.”

The stones that are thrown during pilgrimage are the representation of that incident.

When the Prophet Ibrahim arrived at the hill, he said, “my dear son! I have to keep my promise I gave to Allah. He wants me to do so. We should do nothing but to obey His commands.” Ishmael replied his father saying, “Whatever Allah wants is for me daddy, let your heart feel relaxed. Keep the promise you gave.”

As soon as Ibrahim removed his hand to sacrifice his son, the voice of a ram was heard.

“Hey! Stop, stop! You observed the dream shown to you by Allah. You kept your promise. This was a test from Allah. And you passed that test. Hereupon, nobody is allowed to sacrifice a human being, to kill them or sadden them. Allah surely prohibited all these. He sent things to you to sacrifice. Sacrifice us, feed the needy people, and make others happy. And so, send us to Paradise. Come on, what are you waiting for. Please COME ON!”

Allah declared that day as a festival day. Shedding Blood among people was prohibited. All people hug each other with love; their heart became filled with peace and solidarity.



The Chapter of Help

In the Qur'an, there is a chapter that tells us whoever believes in Allah gains in all ways. As long as we believe in Him, remember His names and pray, He forgives us even if we make many mistakes, but feel regretful because of them.

Then He keeps us away from all evils.

Let's learn Chapter of Help

Chapter of Nasr (Help)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ (١) وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا

(٢) فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا (٣) ٢

Idha jaa' nasrullahi wa'l-fath. Wa raaytannasa yadkhuluna fi dinillahi afwaja. Fasabbih bi hamdi rabbika wastaghfirh. Innahu kana tawwaba.

What does it tell us?

Chapter of Nasr, or Chapter of Help, consists of 3 verses, 3 verses.

It was revealed in Medina. Good news, good news!

The conquest is approaching with the help of Allah.

People are embracing Islam in crowds.

Let us glorify our Lord,

With the joy of this success.

Let us ask for forgiveness,

Since Allah accepts the repentance.

Let's always keep this in our minds.

But will our Prophet leave this world,

Because the news of conquest has just arrived?

This good news turned into a sorrow for us then.

This good news turned into a sorrow for us.



WE ARE PEOPLE WITH GOOD MORALS.
WE ARE MUSLIMS
RULES OF MORALITY AND MANNERS

Beautiful Names of Allah Which Call us to Behave Well

Are you ready to Remember the beautiful names of Allah?

The whole universe remembers the beautiful names of Allah. Birds, lions, the sun, clouds and many more. From which one do you prefer to start? Let's pretend to be a lion first. Let's say His names all together:

"Allah, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Rahim, Al-Malik, Al-Quddus, As-Salam, Al-Mu'min, Al-Muhymin, Al-Aziz, Al-Jabbar, Al-Mutakabbir, Al-Khaliq, Al-Bari, Al-Musawwir, Al-Ghaffar, Al-Qahhar, Al-Wahhab, Ar-Razzaq, Al-Fattah."

We can learn new names of Him now. When we learn the names of Allah, we can know Him better. And when we know Him better, we attain good morality, and become happy.



If Allah sees everything even whatever we do in secret, then I should be more careful about my behaviors any more.

الْعَلِيمُ al - Alim : It refers to the One who knows everything, no matter apparent or hidden, on earth and in the sky. Nothing can even make a move without His knowledge.

Allah helps me to understand what is good and what is bad.

الْقَابِضُ Al-Qabid **الْبَاسِطُ** Al-Basit : Allah who removes all troubles gives our hearts relief if we adhere to the straight path. When we made a mistake, He makes our hearts uncomfortable.



When people learn the meaning of these names, they compete with each other in goodness and want to be the winner.

الْخَافِضُ Al-Khafid **الرَّافِعُ Ar-Rafi'** : Allah always knows and hides what we are doing, even if we do something in secret and nobody sees it. He lowers the level of those who commit evils and raised the level of those who do good deeds.

Then I should be very careful about my actions in order not to be demeaned. It would be so nice to be a person whom everybody respects.

الْمُعِزُّ Al-Mu'iz **الْمُذِلُّ Al-Mudhil** : He causes people to succeed as a result of their struggle for it. He causes them to be respected among others. However, those who are lazy and do bad things always become unsuccessful. Nobody respects them.

I cannot say anything without Allah's knowledge.

السَّمِيعُ As-Sami : He hears even the things that we say in our hearts. He hears even the weakest sounds occurring in the tiniest stars. He is aware of everything and nothing can be hidden from Him.

I cannot do anything without Allah's knowledge.

الْبَصِيرُ Al-Basir : He even sees and knows what a little black ant under a small black stone does in a completely dark night. Nothing can be done without His knowledge.

ALLAH: THE CLOSEST BEING TO US!

Dear beloved children! Even though it seems there is nobody around us, everything we do is being watched. Even if we say something in our hearts, there is One who hears it.

There is Allah who is aware of all our good deeds and mistakes, and who warns us. Each of our nice behaviors in this world will meet us in the form of the nicest surprise gifts in the hereafter.

Then each one of us should be a person with good morality.

We should love people, animals and nature, and protect them.

We should always tell truth even if telling the truth make other people angry.

We should not do backbiting.

We should do good to those who break our heart.

We should teach them to do good.

We should greet people whom we meet with a smiling face.

Let's become people with good morality. Let's turn our world into Paradise.

Let's gain both in this world and in the hereafter!



Have you ever thought what would happen if we did not have our eyes?

Let's close our eyes for a while. We would see nothing except darkness, wouldn't we? Could you see the clouds, your mom, your dad, or your friends?

Will this darkness not come to an end? Let's pray for this.

O Allah! Give us eyes to see the beauties around us. (Amin.)

Now, let's open our eyes. **Alhamdulillah!** Ohhh, thank you very much O Allah, how beautiful eyes You have granted to us. How hard to live in darkness, how hard to be unable to see anything!

Al-hamdulillah!



What would happen if we did not have our legs?

Let's sit down on the floor, and try to go across as if we have no legs. 1, 2, 3! Just try to cross over, even try to run. Let's see who can do that. But do not forget that you are pretending that you have no legs, you cannot stand up.

It is too hard, isn't it? It is not possible to run in that position! Then let's pray.

O Allah! Give us legs with which we can walk to whatever is good. (Amin.)

Now, we have legs. Let's stand up and run. **Alhamdulillah!** Thank you very much oh Allah, how nice legs You have granted to us. We can walk comfortably and run quickly thanks to them.

What would happen if the sun didn't exist?

Let's think about it. Everything would be in darkness. We could not see anything and anyone. If the sun did not exist, the weather would not be warm either. It would be very cold that we would freeze. Come on, let's come close to each other, so perhaps we can get warmer... Let's hug each other, it is too cold and we even cannot see each other. Let's pray, otherwise we may die because of cold.

O Allah! Give us the sun. Let it rise everyday for us again, let it enlighten our worlds and heat us. (Amin.)

Alhamdulillah! Thank you very much O Allah. How nice it is that You created the sun for us. And You have created many more things just for our comfort...

What should we do because Allah thinks of us so much and grants us with so many things? We can pray to Him and thank Him. We can say **Al-hamdulillah!** If we read and understand our book, the Qur'an, we can implement its verses in our lives! We can thank Allah by means of worshipping Him!

The Chapter Which Teaches Us Our Duties toward Allah

How nice! All these are our duties toward God. With Chapter al-Quraish, not only we remember all the graces given to the people who lived in deserts in the past, but also, we learn how to thank our Lord who made the Prophet Adam built the beautiful, and gorgeous Ka'bah which he saw in Paradise.

The Chapter Al-Quraish

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَا إِلَافَ قُرَيْشٍ (١) إِلَّا فِيهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ (٢) فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ (٣) الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِنْ جُوعٍ وَآمَنَهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ (٤)

Li ilafi Quraish. Ilafihim rihlata sh'shitaai wa's sayf. Fa'l-ya'buduu Rabba had-ha'l-Bayyt. Allazhi at'amahum min ju'in wa amanahum min khawwf.

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Quraish consists of 4 verses, 4 verses.

It was revealed in Mecca. By means of the treaty signed in Quraish after the incident of Fil (elephant), the trips done in the summers and the winters started to be done in safety. Trips in summers and winters overflowed with joy. So let them worship to the Lord of this House because He is the One Who has fed the people of Quraish against hunger and has made them safe from fear.



MY DEAR PROPHET!

Do you know what kind responsibilities we have towards our prophet?

Let's think about it, and remember how much our Prophet struggled in order to teach Islam. He strove so much and without stop lest we learn our religion and have a happier life.

He would first feed the needy even though he was hungry like them. He always prayed for us during the day and night. He had a footsore, no tears left in his eyes to shed. He fought with evils to the utmost. He stood out against injustice treatments done to him and to all Muslims. He showed patience to those who did not obey what he said. In consequence, he taught Islam, the religion of peace and love, to the world. He would sprinkle over the clothes of others smell of rose just like his own smell. He successfully accomplished his mission, and now, it is our turn. Let's smell like rose just as he did and let's spread the smell of rose around.

But how? Of course, by taking his good morality as a role model for ourselves and implementing it in our lives.

We will smell rose just like our Prophet did, if we try to be a good person who is trustworthy, smiling, helpful, and knowledgeable and whose heart is full of love.

Allah the Almighty says: "Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace." (Chapter al-Ahzab, 33: 56) Then let's ask Allah to confer blessing upon our Prophet too.

Allahumma salli 'ala sayyidina Muhammadin wa 'ala ali sayyidina Muhammad.



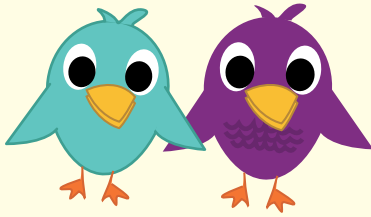
Did You Know This?

Fridays are the festival days of believers. Every Friday, we go to perform Friday prayer and ask our brothers how they are. We take care of the needs of each other. Our Prophet indeed hears those who recite Salawat in Fridays. Yes, he hears what we say and replies us saying, "I love you very much too."

Do you know "What Salawat is." Let's say together, let's make our voice heard by our Prophet.

Allahumma salli 'ala sayyidina Muhammadin wa 'ala ali sayyidina Muhammad. How great! Our Prophet heard all of us. Well, what about the other days? If we recite Salawat in other days as well, our Prophet becomes so happy. Angels let him know that we recite Salawat for him and always remember him. Thus, he gets lots of news about us and he loves us so much.





Twin Prayers

Our Prophet taught us two prayers.
We can remember him through these prayers.
How nice, then let's learn them.

Allahumma Salli

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ * كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ * إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammadin wa 'ala ali Muhammad, kama sallayta
'ala Ibrahima wa 'ala ali Ibrahim, innaka hamidun majid.

Its Meaning

O Allah, exalt our leader Muhammad and the people of our leader Muhammad, as You did exalt our leader Abraham and the people of our leader Abraham. Verily You are Praiseworthy, and Glorious.

Allahumma Barik

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ * كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ * إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

Allahumma barik 'ala Muhammadin wa 'ala ali Muhammad, kama barakta ala Ibrahima wa 'ala aali Ibrahim, innaka hamidun majid.

Its Meaning

O Allah, bless our leader Muhammad and the people of our leader Muhammad, as You did bless our leader Abraham and the people of our leader Abraham, verily You are Praiseworthy, and Glorious.



Our Responsibilities To Ourselves

Let's thank our Lord who blessed us with our hands, arms, feet, eyes, heart and many other limbs, and of course who gave us our reason even without our request for them. Let us not confine ourselves to say just "Alhamdulillah" (I thank you so much oh Allah), let's thank Allah by caring about our body which is given to us by Allah, and by keeping it clean.



It is our responsibility to protect our bodies against diseases and to take necessary precautions for it. It is also our duty to receive medical treatment when we fall ill. Our beloved Prophet said in this regard: "Seek treatment, O slaves of Allah! For Allah does not create any disease but He also creates with it the cure, except for old age." (Ibn Majah, Tibb, No: 3456: Ibn Majah, Tibb, 1)

Our beautiful religion Islam has banned the usage of alcoholic beverages and narcotic drugs which are very harmful to our body when consumed. Islam commands us to abstain all kind of behaviors that endanger our health. It advises us to know the value of our health while we still have it and to be always cautious against diseases.



For this pupose;

**We should be clean
and well-groomed**

**We should eat he-
althily and properly**

**We should not conti-
nuously sleep and be
lazy.**

It is also among our responsibilities toward ourselves to protect our hands, tongue and feet from getting involved in wrong things. But how? We can protect our tongue by telling only the truth. We can protect our hands by not taking anybody's property without their permission. Likewise, we can protect our feet by running toward only what is good. When our body stays away from wrong things, we can become a person loved by others.

Those Who Do Wrong Will be Responded by Wrong!

An example for this is told in the Qur'an:

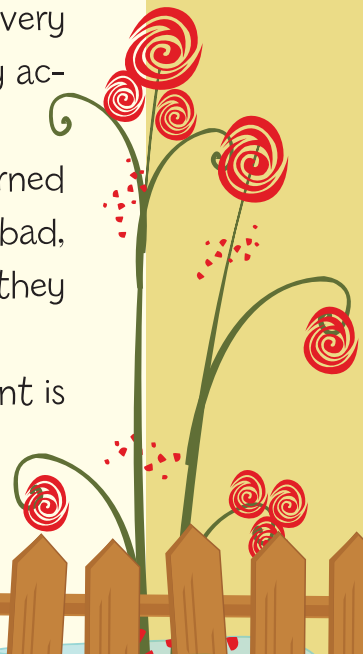
Our Prophet's uncle, Abu Lahab, and his wife were people with a very bad morality. They were talking behind people's back and gossiping. Even they were slandering people by attributing them deeds which they did not actually do. They also denied our Prophet. They placed huge thorns over the ways that the Prophet walked through just to hurt him, and those thorns pricked his feet and caused to bleed.

They put innards of dead animals on the door of the Prophet's house to disturb him with their bad smell and so to force him to leave there.

Whereas our Prophet always treated them well. He told them what they were doing is wrong and warned them. However, they did not care what our Prophet said. They kept doing bad things. They were not aware of that every bad thing returns to the person who did it. So they actually did harm to themselves.

Allah gave them as an example in the Qur'an, and warned us saying "never do like them". Those who think of bad, actually do evil to themselves at the end. Besides, they also lose the paradise.

The chapter that tells the above mentioned incident is called chapter al-Masad. Let's learn this chapter:



Chapter al-Masad

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ (١) مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ (٢)
سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ (٣) وَامْرَأَتُهُ حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ (٤)
فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ (٥)

Tabbat yadaa abi lahabin wa tabba. Ma aghna anhu maluhu wa ma kasab. Sayasla naran dhata lahab. Wamraatuhu hammalat a'l-hatab. Fijiyydiha hablun min masad.

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Masad, the Chapter al-Masad

Consists of 5 verses, 5 verses.

It was revealed in Mecca.

While our Prophet was calling to good and righteousness

His uncle, Abu Lahab

Stoned him with no mercy.

He denied him without thinking.

But what happened then? His hands perished.

His wealth and gains, and all the other things

Could not help him.

And his wife, as a wood-carrier, a backbiter

Plunged in the flaming fire

With a halter of palm-fiber upon her neck

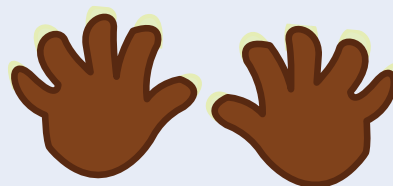
Because of what she has done with her own hands.



I CLEAN MY BODY!

“Attuhuru shatr u’l-iman” cleanliness is the half of faith.

When we perform ablution our body becomes so clean that we shine brightly.



But about what else should we be careful?

Our nails!

If our nails are so long that can be seen over the tips of our fingers when we look at our palms, it means that it is long overdue to cut them. Oh dear!

We need to clip our nails right away. Why? Because when we leave our nails long, water and other cleaners cannot reach and clean the bottom of our nails. And germs which take the advantage of the situation would comfortably settle at the bottom of our nails. They make a nest for themselves there and reproduce. They use our hands like a caravan which carries them wherever they want to go. When we take our hand to our mouth, they enter our mouth. When we rub it on our eyes, they get into our eyes. When you fondle a baby by your hands, they directly move to the baby’s body. When you hold the hand of your friend, they are transmitted to your friend. Therefore, germs may plague everyone around you at any moment and those who are infected can fall ill. How bad is this, isn’t it?

However, when we cut our nails, we can ruin the plans of those naughty germs. They cannot settle in our fingers if we wash our hands regularly, perform our ablution and nicely take our bath and they cannot harm to anyone either.

Once again, Muslims believing in Allah and caring their cleanliness won! YIPPEE!

When We Answer the Call of Nature

In order to be a clean person, we should be very careful when we go to the restroom. But how?

Thanks to Allah, we are able to go to the restroom and relieve ourselves. In this way, we can throw out the detrimental and useless parts of what we have eaten as well as the germs in our body. This is called answering the call of nature.

A Muslim should never relieve himself outside in public. If we are in such a place where there is no restroom, or isolated from the central places, and if there is no possibility to find a restroom, we must go to a place that cannot be seen by anyone. We should answer the call of nature in squatting down position and make sure to cover it with soil. So we can prevent germs and bad smells from spreading around.

We must also clean our private parts after answering the call of nature.

Thanks to Allah, there is water. It is easy to clean ourselves if there is water with us.

Come on, let's tell.

Allez, racontons de suite.

At the door of the restroom, we say: *"Allahumma inni audhu bika mina'l-hubsi wa'l-habais (O Allah, I seek Refuge with You from all offensive and wicked things (evil deeds and evil spirits))."* (Bukhari, Wudu 9; Bukhari, Daawat, 54)

We should open the door and step in by our left foot. We should wear toilet slippers, those slippers are only for use in the toilet.

If we have pants on us, we should fold up the lower parts of the legs of our pants; if we have skirts on us we should gather up its tips. So we can prevent them from touching down to the ground in the restroom and keep them clean.

Then we couch down and relieve ourselves without splashing around.

After that, we should turn on the tap. Then we take some water by our left hand and nicely wash the private parts of our body. We should make sure that we wipe and dry our private parts.

We should tidy our clothes up and go out from the restroom by our right foot. Don't forget to flash the lavatory. If this is not possible, we should pour enough water so that nobody can understand that we have used the restroom. We should leave it very clean.

Well! Then we need to say *"Ghufranaka Ya Allah (Forgive us O Allah)"* (Abu Dawud, Tahara, 17).

Let's wash our hands immediately. Let's be cleaned completely. Yippee! Our body got rid of all kind of dirtiness.





Let's Come to the Play!

A chair should be replaced at the center of the area. Each student should be called one by one. The student who comes to of the chair should be in a position as if he or she is waiting at the door of the restroom. Then, the student should say the invocation of the restroom and step in the toilet by his left foot, and then sit on the chair. After a short time, others should say, "It is finished!" all together. When the student sits up and pretends to flash the lavatory, everyone should say "Ghufranaka Ya Allah" all together. Then everybody take a deep breath as if they inhale the most beautiful fragrances. But if the student goes to his place without flashing the lavatory, the teacher should pretend to flash the lavatory saying "Ugh, what a bad smell this is" and add "Ghufranaka Ya Allah", then also pretends to inhale the beautiful fragrances taking a deep breath.

Then everyone learns the prayers that needs to be said before and after the toilet.

Did You Know This?

We should not stay in the restroom for a long time. We should not speak or sing a song there either. Do you wonder why? It is because when we speak or sing a song there, germs in the toilet quickly flies and enters our mouth which is already open. Germs from the wee and piss move on to our teeth, tongue, gullet, finally they penetrate into our body. Then our gullet and stomach begin to throb with pain. Even we get a fever and our body burns into flames out of illness. God forbid!

That is why our Prophet advised us not to speak in the restroom and not to stay there for a long time. He taught us the invocations to say before and after going to the restroom lest microbes and evil catch us. How nice! How much our Prophet thinks of us, doesn't he?

Wash Your Hands and Say Bismillah!

Dear Friends! We all now know that those who take our Prophet as a role model and live like him would get plenty of paradise points. What about to have our meal just as the way he did from now on?

But how was our Rose Prophet eating his meal?

He would wash his hands before eating,

Then sit and say “**Bismillah**”,

He would take some from the food by his right hand without stuffing his mouth.

He would eat his food without keeping his mouth open

and without speaking.

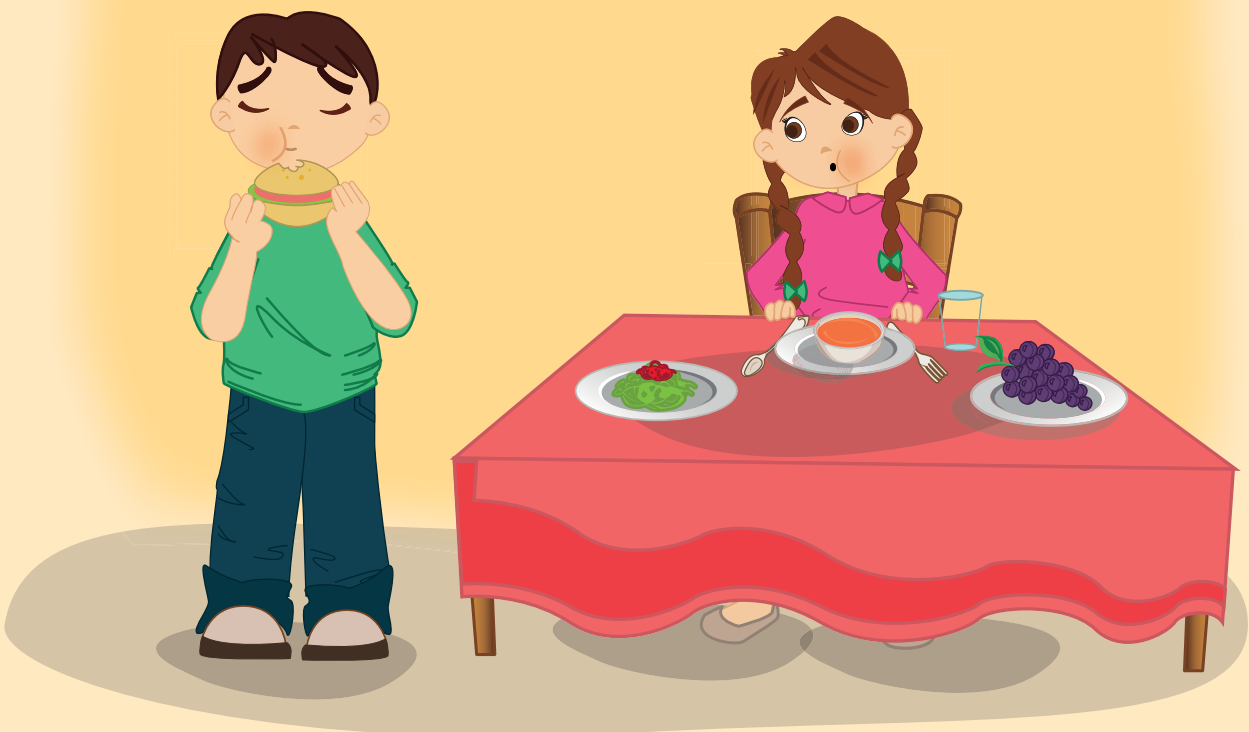
He would never blend all foods and eat too much from all of them at once.

He would never stuff his stomach too much and leave the table without saying “**Alhamdulillah**”.

He would wash his hands, and brush his teeth

And live healthily.

When people saw him, they would say being lost in amazement: “How little food Muhammad eats, and he always fasts. Despite this, he does not fall ill at all. Ooooo, look at his biceps! How strong he looks!”



Abdullah Has a Meal

AAbdullah and Aisha leaped forward saying, “We want to be strong and healthy like our Prophet.”

Then let’s eat our food just as he did. But how?

Abdullah: Do you remember what our teacher told us? I think we need to rub our hands to each other shouting, “O Allah, it is time to eat!” Oh no! I think I made a mistake... Do you remember what we need to do?

Aisha: Abdullah, come on! We need to wash our hands and say basmala.

Abdullah: Oh yes, then we would stand up and gobble up our food, right?

Aisha: No, we should be sitting while eating.

Abdullah: I made a mistake again... Yes, we should sit down and eat with our left hand.

Aisha: No way! We should use our right hand because there are bacteria on our right hand that wipe off all germs.

Abdullah: Oh yes, that is why our Prophet used to eat using his right hand, didn’t he? Alright then, I should use my right hand and stuff my mouth with food. How much I feel hungry, O my God!

Aisha: what are you doing Abdullah? Come on, we should take neither so little nor too much food to our mouth, but take such an amount we can comfortably chew.

Abdullah: I should not speak while there is food in my mouth, right?

Aisha: Of course, otherwise, the food may stick in your throat, which is very dangerous. Even if it does not stick in, the food chewed in your mouth would not look very nice, and may splash around. Ugh, that is disgusting!

Abdullah: Alright, I never speak while I have food in my mouth. I think I am full. I cannot eat anymore.

Aisha: did you finish your plate according to the Sunna, in other words did you clean up your plate?

Abdullah: Sorry?

Aisha: I mean that did you finish your food completely and gather the bread crumbs as our Prophet did? There should be no food left in the plate as you know.

Abdullah: Himm, yes, I cleaned up my plate following the Sunna. (Caressing his stomach) Well! My stomach is full now!

Aisha: Are you aware of what you are saying Abdullah? We should say Al-hamdulillah when we finish the food.

Abdullah: Ohh, I am confusing everything today. Right, I should say Alhamdulillah wiping my arm on my mouth.

Aisha: I cannot believe you Abdullah! How can you clean your mouth by wiping on your arm? You should wash your hands and mouth, and brush your teeth. Today you are very bad.

Abdullah: But how can you remember everything? I could not trick you at all, you know everything well.

Aisha: Ohh, were all those parts of your plan? You little pickle Abdullah! I will make you pay for it now. Don't try to make off!

She started to run to catch him, but our joker Abdullah has already run away.

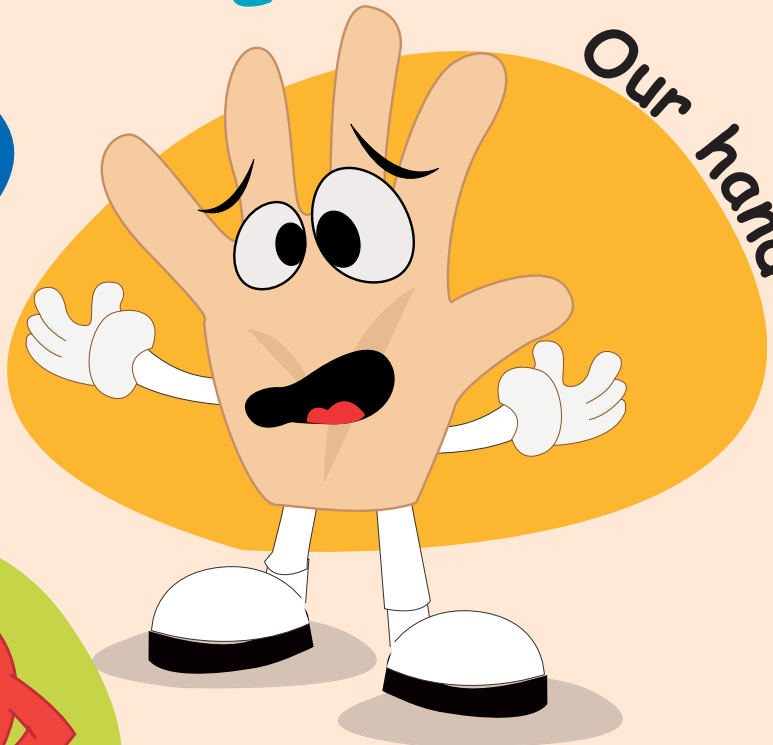


The Game of the Organs Getting Rest

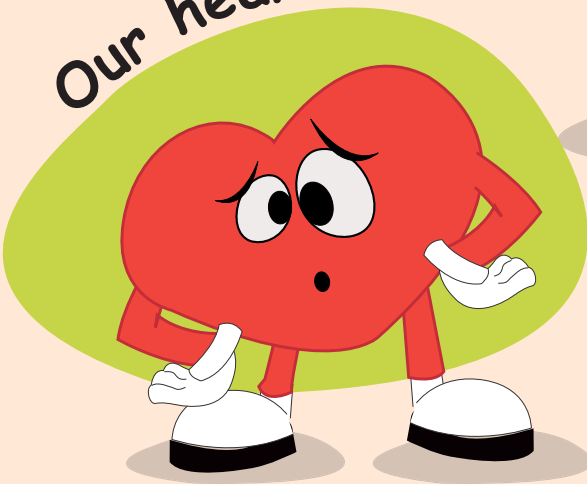
Our stomach



Our hand



Our heart



Don't you want to know how our organs feel?

When we lie face down,
Our organs feel themselves as if we make a
headstand or as if they are knotted.
Now, let everybody choose a position.
When our teacher says, "I am in sleep" let everyone
stay in a position he or she chooses.
Let whoever wants to do headstand, do a headstand, and let whoever wants
to curl up, curl up by tying his/her arms around his/her legs.
Let everybody keep his position until our teacher says, "I woke up".
How do you feel?
Would you like to stay in that position the whole night?
Well then, would it be nice to offer such a bad
rest to our organs that work for us all the times?

Our body gets tired when we move during the day.
 Our brain gets tired because of thinking,
 Our heart gets tired because of beating fast,
 Our stomach and intestines get tired because of digesting what we eat.
 When we sleep, we give them time to get rest.

When the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, wanted to sleep at night, he used to put his right hand under his cheek and go into sleep after saying “Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya (Oh Allah, I sleep with Your name, and I wake up with Your name.)” (Bukhari, Daawat, 7, 8, 16).

Because all our organs feel comfortable when we lie down on our right side. But when we lie face down or on our left side, they feel like they are in an upside down position or curled up. They feel so exhausted and could not get the rest they need. That’s why some people say when they wake up in the morning “Oh, I am so sleepy, I need to sleep more because I could not take a good rest.” But in fact, when we lie down on the right side, our organs get a good rest and we say when we get up in the morning “Yippee! it is morning! What a nice day! I feel great today.” It is what our Prophet (pbuh) used to do. As soon as he woke up, he used to say “Alhamdulillahil-ladhi ahyana min ba’di ma amatana wa ilayhi’n-nushur. (All praise belongs to Allah, who brings us into life after death. He is the only One who resurrects.)” (Bukhari, Daawat, 7, 8, 16) and then he used to start the day joyfully.



Abdullah Goes to Bed

His mom said, "Come on Abdullah, it is very late, time to go to bed. Those who go to bed early wake up early and accomplish lots of things during the day." However, he was eager to sit a bit more, although he knew that his mom is actually right. He said, "Alright then mummy, have a good afternoon." His parents looked at each other wonderingly and corrected him saying, "I believe, you meant to say good night, right?" Abdullah replied, "Oh, yes, good night" and walked to his bed. Then he started to think grumbling, "There was something to do before going to bed, but what was it? I think I needed to brush something, but what was it? Was it my hairs?"



What was he going to brush? (The teacher asks to the students.)

"Ohh, I found it" he said by himself, "My teeth". Then, he immediately brushed his teeth. Actually, he loved more brushing his teeth with miswaq in order to clean them. What a nice thing to clean oneself just as the way our Prophet did. He performed ablution before going to sleep. Great! His hands, his face and feet were very clean now.

"I am ready now." he said and came to his bed. However, it seemed to him that something was missing. What was he supposed to do? (The teacher asks to the students?)

"Yes!" said Abdullah. "I should put on my coat before going to sleep. Oh no, it was my shorts to wear I think, but no, it was not either... Oh my God, what's happening to me? What was I supposed to wear? Oh, yes, my pajamas!" He immediately picked up his pajamas and put them on. It would not be nice for him to go to bed in the clothes he wore during the day, because they get dirty. He should go to bed by wearing clean clothes.

He hop on his bed with the slippers on his feet. His sister said:

"It is not nice to sleep with your slippers. You walked on the ground with them all day. They are dusty and dirty. Ugh, disgusting!" Abdullah said "You are absolutely right my dear sister, you cannot imagine what kind of things I am going through since I decided to go to bed. I think I am so sleepy that I could not remember everything that I already know, and made many mistakes. I am taking off them right away." He said basmala and went into his bed. He pulled his quilt on him and lied down on his right side. He said "Come on my sister, let's pray together tonight. I fear I mistakenly might say the invocation for going to the restroom." They started to laugh at each other.

Their parents listened to them smilingly while they were saying "Allahumma bismika amutu wa ahya." They said "Amin" quietly when they finished.

Did you know?

We should not drink water all in one breath. In other words, we should not drink all at once until we fully satisfy our thirst. We should drink water at least in three breaths. We should take away the glass from our mouth after we take one or two gulps. After taking a breath, we should take the glass to our mouth again and drink one or two gulps more. Then we should give another break to take breath. In the third time, we should take the glass to our mouth again, drink, and finish the water until we feel satisfied.

Our Prophet (pbuh) told us that the above-mentioned way of drinking water is healthier and more satisfying, because in this way our lungs can inhale the clean air comfortably and exhale it without any difficulty while we are drinking water. Also, when we drink water slowly, it gets mixed with saliva better in our mouth and helps our stomach to be healthier. Allah the Almighty guards us against diseases even while we are drinking water and our Prophet taught us the best way of drinking water. How nice!

Oh, I almost forgot! Our Prophet also warned us saying, “Any one of you should not exhale into the glass while drinking water.” (Bukhari, Ashriba, 25) It is because if we have germs in our mouth, they can infect our organs by getting into the water we drink and this makes us prone to fall ill. May Allah protect us from all illnesses!



Abdullah and Aishas Game of Camel

A Aisha: Stop Abdullah! Don't do it! Stop it!

Abdullah: (He was drinking water with a gurgling sound) what should I stop Aisha? I am drinking water, shouldn't I drink? Why not, I am not fasting...

Aisha: I know you are not fasting, I mean you should drink water a bit slowly. Don't drink it like a camel does.

Abdullah: Oh, come on Aisha! Am I a camel?



Aisha: Of course, you are not. What I meant was just to remind you the saying of our Prophet. You know he says in one of his hadiths "Don't drink water the way a camel drinks, without taking breath. Drink it in three breaths (giving breaks). Say basmala before you drink. When you finish, thank Allah." (Tirmizhi, Ashriba, 13)

Abdullah: Oh, you are right Aisha! I have just remembered it when you said it. Our teacher also taught us that hadith, but I had totally forgotten it.

Aisha: Don't worry, I also forget it sometimes. Then, let's remind it to each other, so we can make it a habit easily, can't we?

Abdullah: Yes, we can. (He smiles) But first, you will pay for calling me "camel"!

Just then, they started to play the game of camel. They did not forget to imitate a camel drinking water at times...





Our Duties to Our Parents

MY DEAR MOMMY, MY DEAR DADDY!

Our mothers and fathers!

How could we come to this world if they did not exist? With the permission of Allah the Almighty, when we were little babies, we started our life in our parents' arms that are full of love and compassion.

Our parents are our first guides in this life,

They teach and lead us to the right way.

Allah the Almighty says in a verse, "And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination." (Chapter Luqman, 31: 14)

They are the most valuable beings we have in our lives. They prefer us to any other thing, and always think of us first, rather than themselves. They feed us even when they themselves are hungry. They dress us first even when they need it themselves. They try to make us happy even when they are sad.

When we fall ill, they do not sleep and watch us through the night.

In one of his hadiths, our dear Prophet warned us to be careful about our treatment to our parents saying,

"There are three kinds of prayer which are never ever rejected: Prayer of oppressed ones, prayer of guests, and prayer of parents for their children." (Ibn Majah, Dua', 11)

Let's make them happy, let's get their nice prayers about us, and let's be among the winners forever!

We need to speak with our parents very kindly without raising our voice so that we make their heart happy and get their prayers. We need to do good to them and treat them respectfully. We should not sadden them for any reason whatsoever.





Our Duties to Other People

The Manners of Greeting

Greeting our brothers and sisters in Islam, offering them a place to sit when they come to visit us, and address them with names they like to be called make our love to each other stronger.

Then, what are we waiting for? Let's greet our brothers and sisters in Islam wherever we see them, whenever we meet and leave them. The person who is greeted would be so happy thinking "Such and such person loves me. That is why he/she greeted me. He/she cares about me." Therefore, everyone get to know each other and start to love each other. In the end, we can develop a nice environment full of love.

As Salamu
Alaikum



Spread the greeting among yourselves

When Abdullah went out of the class, he said to himself “I want to be loved too.” And he started to greet everyone he saw in his school, on his way to home and to the school. At first, everybody looked surprised. They looked at him weirdly wondering who that kid was. Day after day, they started to like Abdullah’s greetings upon them. Even they began to greet him saying “Salamun alaikum Abdullah” when Abdullah did not see them. After a while, everybody was looking at him with a smile whenever they saw him.

When Aisha asked him in surprise “How does everybody know you Abdullah, how can they love you so much?” he answered her overconfidently “Don’t you remember what our Prophet said and our teacher taught us?

‘Afshuu as-salama bainakum. (Spread the greeting among yourselves.)’ (Muslim, Iman, 54)
I just greeted everyone around me, I spread the greetings and gained everyone’s love.”

Aisha: Then I will start to spread greeting as well, and gain others’ love.

Both of them looked each other smilingly and set out toward their home jumping and skipping joyfully. They were repeating the following words,

“Afshuu as-salama bainakum, Afshuu as-salama bainakum, Afshuu as-salama bainakum.”

Wa Alaikum
Salam
Wa Rahmatullah



In our Behaviors toward People Sometimes:

A friend of us may want us not to speak with another friend of us. Our sister or brother may offer us to play in our neighbor's garden without their permission thinking that they do not mind. Our elders may advise us to keep the money you found on the ground as if we were its real owner. If you know that Allah would not like these behaviors, and the Prophet never likes them, then you should be able to say

NO! I am not going to do that.

This is exactly what we learn from Chapter al-Kafirun in the Quran.

The Chapter al-Kafirun

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ (١) لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ (٢) وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا
أَعْبُدُ (٣) وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَا عَبَدْتُمْ (٤) وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ (٥)
لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ (٦)

Qul yaa ayyuha'l-kafirun. La a'budu ma ta'budun.

Wa la antum a'biduna ma a'bud.

Wa la ana abidun ma abadtum

Wa la antum a'biduna ma a'bud. Lakum dinukum wa liya din.

What does it tell us?

Chapter al-Kafirun, consists of 6 verses, 6 verses. It was revealed in Mecca.

They said to him "let us make a covenant. If you believe in our religion for a year, we will believe in yours for one year."

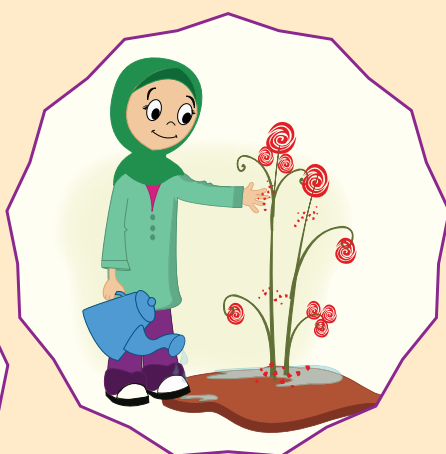
They tried to trick our Prophet.

Our Prophet said, "Let me ask My Lord. He will give the best answer for sure."

My Lord responded them "Qul yaa ayyuha'l-kafirun!"

Unto you your religion, and unto us our religion.

Unto you your punishment, and unto us our reward.



“The best person among people is the one who is beneficial to people most.”

(Jami' al-Saghir, II, 10)

“Allah likes a person to be helped when he/she asks for help.”

(Ibn Asakir)

“If a person plants a tree Allah will reward him/her as much as the number of the fruits produced by that tree.”

(Jami'u's-Saghir, 1495)

“O my Companions! Visit those who are sick and feed those who are in need.”

(Bukhari, Marda, 4; Abu Dawud, Janaiz, 11)

“Those who do not show mercy to their younger ones and those who do not show respect to their elder ones are not among us.”

(Abu Dawud, Adab, 66)



Atishoo!

“Allah likes sneezing and dislikes yawning, so if someone sneezes and then praises Allah by saying Alhamdulillah, then it is obligatory on every Muslim who heard him, to say: May Allah be merciful to you (Yarhamukallah).”

(Bukhari, Adab, 125, 128; Muslim, Zuhd 56)

By means of sneezing, we throw the germs out of our body that might make us ill. Let's think about what would happen if we were not be able to sneeze when we need to sneeze. All germs would go to our brain and lungs, and might paralyze us. Then we may have to live the rest of our lives without being able to move. That is why we say Alhamdulillah which, in a way, means “O Allah, You considered what is best for us and how perfect You have created us! We can get rid of all germs thanks to sneezing. We really thank You.”

One of the companions of Our Prophet, Abu Huraira, says, “When the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) sneezed, he used to cover his mouth with the back of his hand or with a piece of his cloth so that he could prevent the noise of his sneezing. (Abu Dawud, Adab, 90) How considerate our Prophet

is! He would not disturb others by sneezing loudly, at the same time he would prevent the germs spreading around.

If we do not close our mouth with a piece of tissue or the back of our hand, microbes go to the people around us. They may fall ill. May Allah protect us!

We should not be responsible for anyone to get ill.



The Laziness Virus

Abdullah said wonderingly “My teacher! I understand well what to do when we sneeze. We should never refrain ourselves when we need to sneeze. We will just sneeze when we need it. We should close our mouth with our hand and not spread the germs around. However, why doesn’t Allah like yawning? Do germs also pass on others when we yawn? I always yawn when I am sleepy.”

His teacher replied him smilingly, “Yes dear Abdullah! When we yawn, the laziness virus spreads out.”

The whole class were very surprised. It was the first time they have ever heard about a virus with that name. They were wondering what kind of a germ it was. Their teacher continued to talk about it,

“When we yawn, people around us begin to feel tired. Then they also start yawning and cannot concentrate on what they are doing. They cannot accomplish their affairs very well and carefully. They may even make them deficiently or completely wrong. In consequence, they can be so sad. Thus, when we feel that we are going to yawn, we should restrain ourselves and try not to yawn in order not to cause laziness and so that everybody will be able to do their jobs better.”

When Abdullah said, “I have just understood why my sister, mom, dad, my grandmother and grandfather start to yawn whenever I yawn. Everybody just starts to nod off. My mother’s works and my grandfather’s tales always remain uncompleted” the whole class began to laugh at him.



I Made a Joke

Once Abdullah decided to play a joke on Aisha and started making plans about it. He said to himself, “Mmm, what should I do? How can I deceive Aisha? All of a sudden, an idea came to his mind. He thought that they were going to have so much fun.

Abdullah went to the desk of Aisha while she was playing with her friends. He took her homework and hid it ensuring without letting anybody to see him. Everybody started submitting their homework when the teacher came in. Abdullah said to his teacher, “I think Aisha did not do her homework, please look, there is nothing on her desk.” Then Aisha looked around, but could not find her homework. She said sadly to her teacher “I really did my homework, but I cannot find it now” and started crying.

When Abdullah saw this, he immediately leaped forward and shouted “I made a joke. I have your homework. here it is O Aisha!” When she found her homework, Aisha excitedly told her teacher, “I told you that I made my homework, here my homework is! Here it is!”

The teacher warned Abdullah saying, “A Muslim is not allowed to frighten another Muslim O Abdullah! Our Prophet says ‘Woe to those who tell a lie to enjoy people!’ (Abu Dawud, Adab, 88) We must not lie at all. Not even when we make a joke. Our jokes should not cause harm to anybody.”

Abdullah understood very well what our Prophet meant and what he did was wrong actually. He came near his friend Aisha and said to her,

“I am so sorry Aisha! I did not mean any harm! I just wanted to make a joke.”

While wiping away her tears, Aisha said “Don’t do this again O Abdullah! You made me so scared.” Then they hugged each other.



THE SMILING PROPHET

While the friends of our Prophet were talking about him, they said, “We have never seen any person who smiles more than the Prophet Muhammad does. Our Prophet would not laugh loudly but just smile.”

Our Prophet would want his followers to smile instead of laughing loudly. He used to make jokes to them that would make them happy. When His friends said “Oh Messenger of Allah! Are you making jokes on us?” he would respond saying “yes indeed, but I always tell the truth even when I make a joke.” (Tirmidhi, Birr, 57)

Furthermore, he added,

“I guarantee a mansion in the corner of paradise for a person who gives up debating even if he is right. I assure a mansion in the middle of the paradise for a person who abandons telling lies even if it is for fun; and I guarantee a mansion in the top of the paradise for a person having good character.” (Bukhari, Daavat 60; Muslim, Dhikr, 70)



EVERYBODY TRUSTS IN MUSLIMS

The believer is the one from whose hands and tongue you are safe.

Muslims do not speak in every place they go about the things that they see or hear.

A believer never tells a lie nor does he make something wrong, lest people may get angry at him, or in order to make people love him more, or in order to earn more money, or in order to eat a little bit more.

That's why everyone trusts in a Muslim.

Everybody says "whatever a Muslim tells is the truth" so they care and pay attention to what Muslims say.

Of course, a Muslim also can make mistakes and do wrong things. He may be deceived by the bad people. Allah the Almighty teaches us two chapters in the Qur'an. He promises to save us from all kinds of evil if we recite them. How nice!



The Protective Chapters in the Qur'an

Let's learn about the chapters which protect us from the evil

Chapter Al-Falaq

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ (١) مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ (٢) وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا

وَقَبَ (٣) وَمِنْ شَرِّ

النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ (٤) وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ (٥) هـ

Qul a'udhu bi rabbi'l-falaq. Min sharri ma khalaq.

Wa min sharri ghasiqin idha waqab. Wa min sharri'n-naffathati fil 'uqad.

Wa min sharri hasidin 'idha hasad.

What does it tell us?

Chapter Al-Falaq consists of 5 verses, 5 verses. It was revealed in Medina.

Some people were jealous of our Prophet (pbuh). They looked at him with evil eyes.

Doesn't Allah protect His Beloved Messenger from mischief of those plotters?

Allah says: Seek refuge in Me, who is the Lord of the Dawn,

From the evil of that which He created;

From the evil of the darkness, that of malignant witchcraft, that of the enviers.

Seek refuge in Me, Seek refuge in Me, the Lord of Mankind!

Chapter An-Nas

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ (١) مَلِكِ النَّاسِ (٢) إِلَهِ النَّاسِ (٣) مِنْ شَرِّ

الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ (٤) الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ (٥) مِنْ

الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ (٦)

Qul a'udhu bi rabbi'n-nas, Maliki'n-nasi, Ilahi'n-nas.

Min sharri'l-waswasi'l-khannas. Alladhi yuwaswisu fi suduri'n-nas.

Min a'l-jinnati wa'n-nas.

What does it tell us?

Chapter an-Nas consists of 6 verses, 6 verses. It was revealed in Medina.

Chapters of Al-Ikhlās, Al-Falaq, An-Nas are the three chapters called as

Mu'awizaat.

From all the evils; from the evils of the sneaking whisperer,

From the evils of people, from everything. Let's recite these chapters and
blow over our body.

Let's take refuge in Allah, the King of mankind,

The God of mankind, the Lord of mankind!

WE ARE GOING ON A HOLIDAY!

Abdullah and Aisha looked at each other smilingly.

They waved goodbye to each other saying, "Have a nice vacation! I will miss you."

When Abdullah told his mother,

"Mummy, I will miss my teacher and my friends. How much I learned together with them. How much I had good times with them." His mother replied him saying,

"Do you remember the first time you went to the school? How worried you were! You started the school with reciting Basmala. Now look at the things you have learned and achieved.

How so many things you know now."

Abdullah said, "Yes Mom, I have made a lot of good friends,

At the same time, I have obtained a plenty of valuable knowledge"

His mother said: "Now, you should save what you have gained."

When she saw Abdullah's curious eyes that seem to ask "How?" she added with a smile,

"By putting into practice whatever you have learned."

Abdullah has just started to recite the names of Allah.

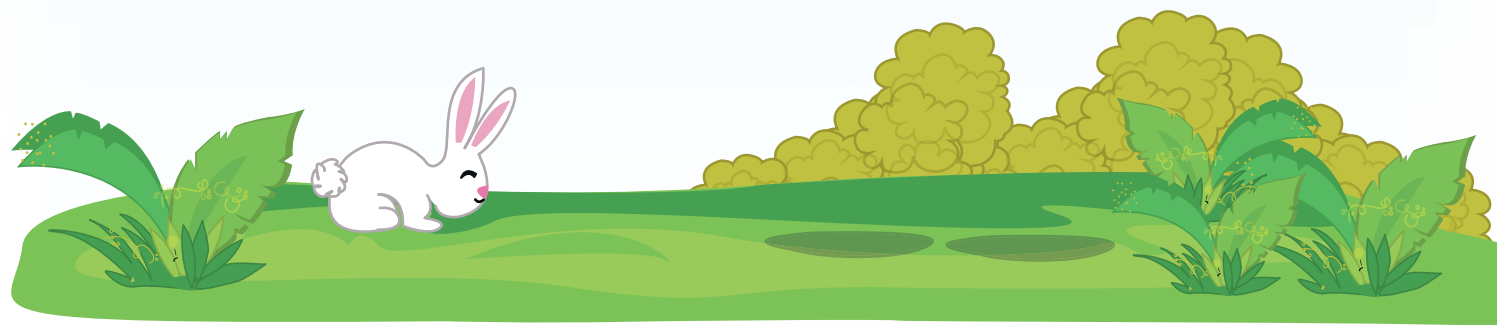
He was skipping and running joyfully with a big smile on his face and greetings on his tongue.



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